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THE
SECRET HISTORY
OF THE
Present Intrigues
OF THE
Court of CARAMANIA.





THE
SECRET HISTORY
OF
PRESENT
SITUATION
OF THE
COUNTRY OF CARAMANIA.



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SECRET HISTORY
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OF THE
Court of CARAMANIA.



L O N D O N,

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M.DCC.XXVII.

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SECRET HISTORY
OF THE
PROTECTOR
OF THE
COURT OF CARAMANIA



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SECRET HISTORY

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Court of CARAMANIA.



THE large and fertile Province
of *Caramania* is situated in
that part of *Asia* which is call'd
the *Minor*; and was formerly
in subjection to the Kings of
Anatolia: but **THEODORE**, the present
Prince, having married **HYANTHE**, a
Daughter of the late Monarch, had in Dow-
ry with her a general Release from all Tri-
bute,

bute, Fealty, and Obedience, by which himself and Successors are now dignified with the Title of *Sovereign Princes of Carmania*.

Nothing could more endear a Ruler to his People than did this Action of THEODORE's; it seem'd so magnanimous a proof of Love to his Country, that a young Prince, in the full Vigour of those Desires which Loveliness creates, and every way accomplish'd to please the Fair, should, neglecting all the Beauties of the last, and the present Advantages he might have enjoy'd in the Choice of another Bride, sacrifice himself to a Princess much older than himself; and who, when in her Bloom of Youth, was mistress of very few personal Charms, meerly to free his Subjects from a Dependance which had long been uneasy to them; that they thought they could never too much express their Sense of the Obligations they had to him: Statues were in all publick Places erected to his honour! they almost adored him as a guardian God! nor could he appear in publick without the Drums, Trumpets, and other martial Musick which accompany'd him, being drown'd in the louder Acclamations of the admiring Croud, who hanging on his Chariot-Wheels, seem'd to rend the very Skies with Cries of Joy! *Liberty* and THEODORE, was the word! *Liberty* and THEODORE, was all that could be heard. Nor

Nor was this Action of his look'd on with wondring Admiration by the Populace only; those of the deepest penetration, and who made it most their business to pry into the Intrigues of State, could with all their search be able to ascribe no other Reason for it, than that which it had the appearance of: so happy was this Prince in the few trusted by him, and so little is human Wisdom capable of fathoming the Heart.

But not to detain on the rack the Curiosity of my Reader, who by what I have said, cannot but imagine there was some other and more powerful motive for this Prince's Behaviour, than that which I have related, or than was publickly known; I shall, in as brief a manner as the Subject will admit, give an account how very different from their seeming, were the real Inducements of THEODORE to act in the manner he had done.

Being, as I have already said, possess'd of many valuable Accomplishments, of an illustrious Birth, descended by his Mother's side from the Kings of ancient *Dacia*, and by his Father's from the great ARSACES, and in several memorable Engagements against the Inhabitants of *Mesopotamia* and the Lesser *Armenia* having very much signaliz'd his Conduct and Courage, he was look'd on as a Prince who would hereafter make a very distinguishable figure in the world; and his

Alliance sought for by the neighbouring Nations, as the only Security from his superior Power. The several Princesses offer'd to him in marriage, and the equal Advantages which attended those Proposals, rendred him divided in his Sentiments, and being by his People press'd to make choice, he took a Journey to *Anatolia*, with a design to consult that Monarch, and be directed by him in the Affair.

At his arrival, he receiv'd the Compliments of all the Grandees of that Court among the number of whom was *ADRASTUS*, a Lord of eminent Birth and Merit, and highly in favour with his Royal Master, a which Considerations obliging the Prince to return his Visit in person, he was entertain'd in a manner becoming the Dignity of so illustrious a Guest. But that which crown'd the Feast, and heighten'd every pleasure, was the presence of the lovely *ISMONDA*, Wife to *ADRASTUS*. The Heart of *THEODORE*, till now insensible of the Power of Beauty, felt a strange Alteration at the sight of her, a mixture of Delight and Pain diffus'd itself through every glowing Fibre, tumultuous Thrillings fill'd the Veins, and each warm Artery confess'd the new Desire! Unskill'd in Love, and all unstudied in the Gods approach, and by what means he steals himself into the unguarded Soul, he knew not to what Guest he had given room, and innocently,

Absently, at first, indulg'd the growing Ambiguity, nor thought what future Pains might be the consequence of the present Joy he found in gazing on so dangerous an Object. So lost was he in the admiration of her Charms, that had not MARMILLO, (a *Carmanian* Nobleman who from his Childhood had been bred up with him, had ever been his greatest Favourite, and had accompany'd him to *Anatolia* and in this Visit) reminded him that it grew late, he might possibly have forgotten that Decorum which is always observ'd between Persons of short acquaintance, as was that he had with ABRISTUS, and by his long stay have occasion'd some Suspensions in him, which would have been of little advantage to the Passion he had entertain'd.

'Tis certain that the Discretion of MARMILLO, who presently saw the Condition of his Prince, kept it from being perceivable by the Husband; but the fair Occasion was too sensible of the Force of her Charms, to be deceiv'd in that manner; she both knew and triumph'd in the Conquest she had made; and tho' she had hitherto regarded her Husband with more Tenderness than is ordinarily found among Wives of Quality, yet the thoughts of being belov'd by so great and so lovely a Prince as THEODORE, rousing all that was vain or ambitious in her Soul, made her in very great

danger of swerving from that Duty, she had, till now, preserved with all imaginable strictness. She saw herself admired by him, was pleas'd with the discovery, endeavour'd all she could to enhance the Esteem she had inspired, and how near such a Disposition is to betraying the Heart, too many fine Ladies by fatal Experience can testify.

THEODORE, on the other side, was no sooner departed from the presence of his adored ISMONDA, than he was convinc'd by the pain he was in, what sort of Passion it was which he had entertain'd: That purling Pleasure, which at her every little Word or Motion, ran trickling through his Veins, was now succeeded by a heavy Languor; that sprightly Joy which so lately enliven'd all his Soul, the dear Inspirer absent, gave way to a sullen Gloom, and the once calm Composure of his Mind wholly chang'd to the reverse of what it had been. MARMILLO, of all his numerous Train, was the only Person to whom he communicated his Sentiments; nor did that Favourite omit making use of the Opportunity which this Confidante gave him, of more ingratiating himself to him, by soothing his new Passion with a Prospect of Success: and as he had, from the first View the Prince had of her, presently perceiv'd with what Emotions he regarded her, so was he not less watchful over the Behaviour of ISMONDA; and being per-

perfectly well versed in the humour of that Sex, and having experienc'd the various Foibles by which they become a prey to the insinuations of those who attempt their Honour, he imagin'd that he saw enough in this Lady to keep her Lover from despair: and embellishing the real Opinion he had of her propensity to Love with all the pleasing additions his witty Invention cou'd supply him with, indulg'd the enamour'd THEODORE with Ideas too satisfactory to be repell'd, and prevented him from making even an Effort to vanquish those new Desires which had taken possession of his Soul.

He had after this many opportunities of seeing her; for being as great a Favourite with HYANTHE, as her Husband was with the King, she was scarce ever from that Princess; and the transported THEODORE, under the pretence of paying his Compliments to the eldest Daughter of a Monarch, to whom he then own'd himself a Subject, indulg'd his Wishes with the more delightful Conversation of her lovely Attendant. The great number of Nobility which continually crowded the Drawing-room of this Princess, gave liberty to those of them, who were desirous of it, of withdrawing into Parties, and as this Court was full of Gallantry, almost every one had his particular Engagement: It is not to be doubted but

that THEODORE laid hold on every opportunity which presented itself to him, of entertaining the Object of his Affections; and one day having drawn her to a Window which jutted out a considerable way, and was separated from the rest of the Room by a kind of Half-Alcove; he told her after some discourse on ordinary Affairs, looking on her at the same time with an unspeakable tenderness in his Eyes, that he had a Question to ask, which he passionately long'd to be resolv'd in, but that it was of such a nature, as he durst not mention without having first her promise of a faithful Answer. The grave and earnest manner in which these Words were delivered, created at first some little surprize in ISMONDA; but presently recovering herself from it, and impatient for his meaning, assur'd him that whatever his demand was, she would reply to it with admirable Sincerity. It is then Madam said he, if amidst all that show of happiness, you seem to enjoy in a married State, you have never in secret wish'd that you had made less haste to enter into it, and in some measure regretted the loss of that Liberty a single Life affords? Tho' of all the Interrogatories which Invention cou'd inspire, or Language form, answered she, this is of a kind the most foreign from my expectation; yet since you have my promise, I

will not scruple to inform you as much of
the matter as my own Heart is sensible of.
Yes I will confess, *continued she*, that I
have no reason to complain, either of the
want of Honour or Tenderness in ADRA-
STUS; I am not without some share of that
too common Foible of Humanity, which
makes us place less Value on the things
we are in possession of, than those above
our reach. Whatever we may pretend,
Hope is the most pleasing Passion of the
Soul, and happy as I am, having entered
into a State which deprives me of the
power of expecting to be more so; I can
not entertain myself with those delightful
Ideas, which were the Companions of my
Virgin Thoughts. Then Madam *cried the*
Prince; interrupting her with a visible trans-
port in his Voice and Eyes, you do not
think ADRASTUS deserving the boundless
Blessings he enjoys? I think him worthy
of much more, *resum'd she*, than is in the
power of ISMONDA to bestow; — but yet,
contin'd she briskly, who knows but in
spite of the little Merit I am mistress of,
Fortune and that unaccountable Caprice
which sometimes rules the Heav's might
had I been in a condition to receive them,
have favour'd me with the Addresses of
some Man superiour to ADRASTUS in Birth,
in Power, in personal Perfections, and in
every Joye-inspiring Grace, — at least,
ythus

added

added she, more seriously, I might have flatter'd Imagination with such a hope, and grasp'd in Theory a Joy, the very shadow of which would have been preferable to the real Substance of that mean Content which I have made my Lot. If these words were not dictated by a Passion she had for the Person to whom they were address'd, he could take them for no other than the effects of her desire of engaging him: He plainly saw, that if he was not belov'd by her, she took an infinite pleasure in believing herself belov'd by him; and whether it was to her Tenderness or Coquetry he was indebted for the condescensions she had made him, thought he had now a good opportunity of declaring himself, without any danger of incurring the Censure of being too presuming. Ah Madam! *cry'd he,* were what you say practicable in all Cases, where the reality of our Wishes is unattainable, how much oblig'd to you would every Lover, and in particular the despairing THEODORE be, for prescribing him so easy a way to Bliss? But alas, 'tis only the unprepossessed, and insensible, which can receive any benefit from your Instructions; the Heart which can content itself with an imaginary enjoyment of its Desires, must not have for the Object of them a Perfection like that the adorable ISMONDA boasts.——You, whose excelling Charms
justly

justly command the World, may at your pleasure dispose the Slaves as Fancy shall direct, but what relief for me? — Ah! how shall I beguile the Tortures of a real Despair by an imaginary Joy? — When in embolden'd Thought I seem to travel o'er all your world of Beauty, and aim to taste a Bliss which even in Idea is too mighty to be born, will not curst Reason intervene between me and the insupportable Delight, reverse my fate, convert my promised Heaven to a certain Hell, and present the extatick Vision in another's Arms? — Can I indulge the rapturous Image of ISMONDA's Charms, and not at the same time behold A D R A S T U S in possession of them?

Here ceas'd the Prince; but ISMONDA, tho' she had wish'd, and from her first acquaintance with him, expected a Declaration of this nature, had hitherto been so little accusom'd to receive Gallantries, that she could not defend herself from the Confusion with which this overwhelm'd her: but the pleasure she conceiv'd at it, soon dissipating all the Remonstrances of shame or virtuous resentment, she affected to take all he had said to her only as raillery and the Effects of an over-gay disposition, and answered him in this manner: It must be confess'd indeed, *said she*, that you counterfeit the despairing Lover with so good

a grace, that should a Woman be vain en-
 hough to believe you were in any danger
 of becoming such in good earnest, not
 ADRASTUS alone, but the noblest Husband
 in *Anatolia* would soon cease to be in a
 condition capable of creating Envy. Since
 therefore, of all mankind, you have the
 most reason to hope every thing, expect e-
 very thing, those delightful Ideas we have
 been speaking of, can be no strangers to
 your Soul; unless you are one of those
 unreasonable Ones whom nothing but the
 real Substance can content. Tho' the for-
 mer part of what you have said, *reply'd the*
Prince, contains a Compliment to which
 I have no pretence, yet I cannot avoid sub-
 scribing myself to that Character you men-
 tion in the latter. Yes Madam! (*pursued*
he, tenderly pressing her Hand) I acknow-
 ledge that I am one of those who cannot
 be satisfied with the shadow of a Blessing.
 Spirits may delight themselves in an intel-
 lectual Correspondence with each other,
 because it is all they are capable of en-
 joying; but while the Soul is lodg'd in Flesh
 and Blood, Desires of a different nature will
 arise; the Body claims its share of Joy, nor
 will permit the other to be blest alone.
 Bless me, *cry'd ISMONDA, interrupting him,*
 how suddenly is the turn of my *Con-*
versation alter'd! *sa'd* *his thought,* indeed, that
 Air of humble diffidence and despair was lit-
 tle

the conformable to your disposition, and
 this of the bold vendroaching Lover is in-
 finitely more natural, and shows you have
 been more used to bestow Compassion than
 stand in need of it yourself. & Whatever I
 have been, *answered she*, I am now, and one
 if I want power to convince you that I
 have no other aim on Earth, than to re-
 ceive from the divine Ismon, and some of
 his servants, if there are such, the professions
 I have made you of a Passion the most viol-
 lent that ever was, appearing too great a Pres-
 umption, impute it to the extremity of that
 Anguish which a hopeless Blame creates, and
 which failing to move pity from the address'd
 Object, in time consumes the Breast which
 harbours it. *Well, well, said she, still*
with an ironical tone and gesture, when I
 am certain you are in a Condition, such as
 requires consolation, you shall find me not
 ill natur'd enough to refuse it. What proofs
 do you demand, *rejoined he*, will nothing
 less than a Dagger, a Bowl of Poison, or a
 Leap from some steep Promontory suffice?
 Yes I assure you, *answered she, laughing*, I can
 form no such romantick flights, Testimonies of
 a more modern fashion will content me.
 But, *continued she*, perceiving at two or three
 Ladies coming toward them, some other
 time we'll talk further on this matter. The
 Company by this time having joined them,
 the Conversation grew general, most of them
 that

that day a second opportunity of speaking to her alone. He was, however, as he had good reason, perfectly satisfied with the progress he had made: He very well knew ISMONDA was a Woman of too much penetration not to see into his Designs, and her receiving the Declaration he had made her only as a Jest; he took it, as really it was, as the method she made choice of, to encourage his Addresses, without seeming to do so. MARMILLIO, to whom he related the whole Conversation that had pass'd between them, was of the same opinion; and his known Experience in the Affairs of Love, made the Prince very much depend on his Judgment: and never had Lover, while in a state of Expectation, greater reason to be satisfied with his Condition.

The next time he saw her, was in the Gardens of the Palace Royal. She was lying on a green Bank by the side of a Fountain, extended at full length, her Head only a little reclin'd and leaning on her Arm, her Eyes seem'd to swim in tender Languishments, and an unusual Softness play'd about her Mouth, with gentle Sighs her snowy Bosom heav'd, triumphant Love wanton'd thro' all her Air, and every Part proclaim'd the new Desire. A-while, unseen by her, the amorous Prince stood gazing on her Charms, taking an infinite pleasure in contemplating her in this melting and love-inspiring Posture;

sture; especially when he reflected on the great probability there was, that it was occasion'd by the thoughts of him, and that one of these delightful Ideas they had been talking of at their last Interview, might now take up her Mind. At last, considering that if she should chance to lift up her Eyes and discover him, it would testify but little of that ardent Lover he had profess'd himself to be, contented with that distant Prospect, he drew near, and was on his knees before her, where he remain'd some moments without rousing her from her Resvery, so deeply was she plung'd in Thought; till no longer able to contain himself, he catch'd fast hold of one of her Hands, and putting it to his Mouth, seem'd to devour it with his eager Kisses. She started at the sudden Pressure, and her Surprise making her send forth a little Shriek, kept the Prince from using any efforts to prevent her rising from the posture she was in; Good Heaven! *cry'd she*, how have I been lost in Thought! Might I presume to ask, *rejoin'd THEODORE*, what has been the Subject of that Contemplation, which has been so favourable to my Desires, of gazing on your Charms uninterrupted, and unaw'd? Yes, *answer'd she*, I will make no scruple of reposing a Secret in your breast, which is of so much consequence to your self. Love has been the Theme of my Meditations: and the happy

happy Object of that Passion is no other
 than THEODORE. How, Madam, cry'd he,
 (not able to contain the Extasy with which
 these words fill'd all his Soul) is THEODORE
 the Object of ISMONDA'S Love? and do you
 confess it so? Is it possible that I am so
 divinely bless'd? O catch the joyful Sound;
 ye gentle Winds, and bear it up to Heaven;
 there let it be registred, and every Saint and
 ministering Angel witness the glorious Pro-
 mise, and put it past the lovely Maker's
 power ever to call it back! The Beauties of
 ISMONDA were at this Acclamation cover'd
 with a scarlet Blush which was presently
 succeeded by a deadly Pale when the
 Prince approaching her with all the Trans-
 ports of an embolden'd Lover, was about
 to take her in his Arms, and reap some
 fruits of that obliging Declaration she had
 made him. Forbear, my Lord, said she,
half turning from him, these Raptures are
 indeed a just Return for the Passion with
 which you are honour'd; but alas! it is not
 ISMONDA who is worthy of receiving them.
 Your Merits have had the effect which is
 ordinary for them to inspire, and I have
 which the Glory of subduing is sufficient to
 make yours exult with joy and vanity. As
 for me, think of me no otherwise than as of
 a Wretch whom Fate has cast in a Sphere be-
 neath Regard, as one who but at humble
 distance dares look up to you yet still af-
 ardent

ardent Zeal for your Prosperity, wishes you still greater, happier, and more bless'd, if possible, than Heaven itself has power to make you. The Surprize which the Prince was in at the first part of this discourse, kept him from giving any interruption to it, till he found she had concluded: and when she had, was divided in his Sentiments, whether he should answer to what she had said with an entreaty that she would explain what it was she meant, by telling him he had influenc'd a Heart more worthy; or return the obliging Softness with which she ended, in Endearments such as her Behaviour seem'd to demand from a Man less enamour'd, less transported with it than himself. After a Pause of about two moments, It is of little consequence to my Peace, *said he*, in whatsoever light my Merits may appear to the rest of the world, I wish to be agreeable but to ISMONDA; and to prove you really wish to see me bless'd to that superlative degree you mention, you must believe 'tis only in your power to make me so——Think not therefore, *continued he*, (pressing a second time her unresisting Hand with greater Tenderness, if possible, than before) think not to put me off with the mean Joys which any other Beauty has the power to yield; my high-raisd Wishes aim at the supremest Bliss, nor will be satisfied with aught but you! Your Love alone

can give me perfect Happiness, your Cruelty alone can make me wretched. It was with a visible Satisfaction in her Eyes, mix'd with a tender Melancholy, that ISMONDA receiv'd this Declaration; and when she perceiv'd he had given over speaking, I know not, *answer'd she*, how far the natural Vanity of my Sex might induce me to believe what you have said, had I not a Rival with whom 'tis Treason to dispute any thing: it is the Princess, Sir, HYANTHE, who claims all your Devoirs, nor would forgive me even a Wish to entertain you in this manner. — I see already, *pursued she*, (after a little pause, and observing some Confusion in his Countenance) the Weakness of my Influence appears: the very Name of this too powerful Opposer robs me of all the Interest I had in you — yet do you owe me some Acknowledgement for the Intelligence: you might, perhaps, but for me, have long been uninform'd of the Happiness design'd you, and I will not lose one jot of those Privileges which are allow'd in such cases to Confidantes. Unjust ISMONDA, too lovely, cruel Trifler! *resumed the Prince*; why do you take a barbarous pleasure in raillying the pains you give? Were what you say concerning that Princess real, too well are those dear Eyes of yours acquainted with their force, to fear a Rival, or suspect your Lover's Truth. This is an Invention

tion forg'd, but to delay those Joys which this bless'd Opportunity seems to invite: —But thus, *cry'd he, (catching her in his Arms, and bearing her per force into a little Grotto near the Fountain)* thus will I disappoint the measures thou wouldst take; thus put an end to all the little Artifices which fear or modesty might tempt thee to make tryal of, and be indeed as bless'd as thou hast lately wish'd me.

'Tis certain that this Prince's desires were now grown too violent for restraint by any common means, and nothing less than those ISMONDA took, could have oblig'd him to defer one moment the perpetration of his Passion. Perceiving herself on the very brink of falling a Sacrifice to a Passion, which she was not yet certain, was enough establish'd in his Heart to assure her of his Constancy and Gratitude, and that nothing she could say was of any efficacy to move him from his Purpose; she snatch'd a Dagger, which he always wore by his side, and putting the Point of it to her Breast, protested by all the Gods of *Caramania*, that she would that instant dye it with her Life's-Blood, if he would not sit calmly down and listen to what she had to utter. She spoke this with so resolute and determin'd an Air, that the astonish'd THEODORE trembled lest she should execute what she had menac'd, before he could convince her

of his readiness to obey her ; and retiring three or four Paces from her, threw himself upon his Knees, entreating she would throw away a Weapon so unbecoming her Sex, and the Power she had over him. No, *said she*, 'tis necessary that I keep myself thus arm'd, to prevent that which I am about to confess, from having an effect upon you, contrary to what I am willing to permit. Know then, *continued she*, (with a deep Sigh) that from the first moment you arriv'd at the *Anatolian* Court, my Heart has been your Prize ; my Husband, you know, with some other Noblemen, met you on the Frontiers, and I with many other Ladies stood at a Window to behold the Entrance of a Prince, whose fame had fill'd us all with admiration. Not an Eye, but what seem'd fix'd and riveted upon your Charms ; but all my Soul flew into mine, to take the bright, the dangerous Image in :—— when next I saw you, 'twas at my own Apartment, you did ADRASTUS the honour of a Visit, and by that second View I was intirely lost.——I acknowledge that never Woman loved with a greater transcendancy of Passion than that I feel for you, and it is perhaps more owing to the Zeal of my Affection that I refuse giving you the Proof you ask of it, than to my Virtue, my Duty, or any other consideration whatever.—Too much,
O

O Prince ! I love you, to dare give a loose to tenderness without a Certainty, that I shall always be permitted to do so : — should I indulge your present Wishes and my own, how should I be able to support the dreadful Separation, which must soon attend this short-liv'd Heaven of felicity? — Are not all the Princesses of *Asia* impatient to call you Husband? — Are you not come to *Anatolia*, merely to consult its King which of them shall have the preference in your Choice ; the great decision made, happy *Caramania* will again receive its Lord, and poor ISMONDA be abandoned to all the miseries which Despair creates. A Flood of Tears here stop'd the farther Progress of her Words, and gave the impatient THEODORE the opportunity of replying in this manner : After this rapturous discovery, *said he*, think me not so stupidly insensible of the Blessing it affords, or so ungrateful for the Bounty, that on any terms I could be obliged to quit *Anatolia* for ever. — No, most enchanting, most adorable ISMONDA, I should look on all the Hours which cruel necessity enforces me to pass in absence from you, as so many vacancies in Life ; and soon as the important plagues of State were over, hast to thy Breast, there lull my Cares to rest, riot in Love, and in the present Joy, lose all the memory of the past disquiet. —

Or, *continued he*, if you suspect my Constancy, be the Partner of my Journey, leave *Anatolia* and this too long happy Husband, and consent to share with me my Bed and Power. Alas! *interrupted she*, what wild Chimeras does distracted Passion form ! I know too well of what dangerous consequence to Love are Time and Absence, to trust my Heart with him who must abide their trial : — Much less can I so far consult Self-interest, as to enter into any measures for my own Security, which must be the destruction of your Peace, your Glory, and perhaps your Life. I have already told you, that HYANTHE loves you, she will soon be offer'd to you in marriage by her Father : should you refuse this Princess, and at the same time take with you her Woman, would not all *Anatolia*, commanded by their King, and urg'd to Vengeance by the wrong'd ADRASTUS, be arm'd against you ? Would not their Forces like a Torrent pour upon your Country, depopulate your Cities, lay your Palaces in ashes, and drive you out a wretched Exile to mourn in some sad solitude the Ruins you had caus'd ? No, THEODORE, there is but one way left which can secure our Love : you must marry with HYANTHE, and under the pretence of friendship and fidelity to her, I unsuspected may exchange the Court of *Anatolia* for that of *Caramania*. The confidence and favour
with

with which that Princess graces me, will make it not seem strange, that I can leave a Husband, at least for a time, to accompany so Royal and Kind a Mistress; nor will ADRASTUS, howe'er uneasy, dare to murmur at the Choice I make.

Nothing that the Prince had said, could appear less consonant to Reason than did this Proposal seem to him: He thought it so foreign from the Principles, not only of the Passion she had profess'd, but also from Nature itself, that a Woman could of her own accord desire to share the Possession of the Man she lov'd with another, that for a great while he was able to bring out no more than, Are you in earnest, Madam? — Can you pretend to love, yet advise me to marry HYANTHE? — Must I to prove my constancy be false? — what incoherency of Thoughts are these! In such kind of Interrogatories did he express the Amazement he was under, till she again repeating almost the same Arguments she had before made use of, to demonstrate the necessity there was for his acting in the manner she advis'd, and that no other means could secure either the Love, the Reputation, or the Interest of both; he was half persuaded to be of her mind, and confess'd that in forming this Design, she had testified a Passion more heroick, and more delicate than ever before he had any notion of. In

fine, she at last obtained a promise from him, to accept of the Proposals she knew would be made him by the Father of HY-ANTHE, and oblig'd him to content himself with her's, that as soon as ever that Affair was concluded on, she would deny him nothing.

Thus they parted, and when MARMILLIO, to whom the Prince, the moment he came home related every thing that had pass'd, had a little considered on the Advantages which might be hoped for in an Alliance with this Monarch; he encourag'd him to it by all means, prais'd the masculine Temper of ISMONDA, who, free from the Vanity and Tenaciousness of her Sex, could consent to see the Man most dear to her in a Rival's Arms, in terms so warm and elegant, that he was almost doubtful if his Favourite regarded her not with the same Eyes he did; and judging by that start of Jealousy, which just then rose in his Soul, how terrible it must be to suffer an invader in that tender point, he could not tell how to reconcile it to reason, that ISMONDA could have the real Passion for him she profess'd. This Reflection making him grow pensive on the sudden, MARMILLIO intreated to be told the meaning of it; which the Prince freely declaring, he endeavour'd to ease him of the Apprehensions he labour'd under, in these or the like Terms :

I hope, my Royal Lord! *said he*, that there is little need of my using any Arguments to convince you, that I better know the Duty of a Subject than to dispute any thing with my Prince, or that I look on the Heart of ISMONDA, having receiv'd your Image, as a sacred Temple which is not but with Reverence to be approached: but as to the unjust Suspicions you conceive of her, permit me to set your judgment right; should I or any other Man attempt to rival you in her Enjoyment, the motive which would induce her yielding, must be Love; necessity, or even convenience could not be the Plea: it would certainly, therefore, denote the utmost indifference in you to endure it, much more to approve of it. But the Case is widely different in your becoming the Husband of HYANTHE; the Love which ISMONDA is possess'd of for you, cannot be gratified without it; she has no other pretence to accompany you, she must shortly lose you, 'tis to avoid being separated from you, that she chuses to have you marry'd, and would rather see you in another's Arms sometimes, than be certain she no more could hold you in her own. 'Tis with ease we endure a conjugal Rivalship, because we are pretty certain that those Endearments are more the Effect of Duty and Formality, than of Love: nor consequently can ISMONDA suffer greater
dis-

disquiet to behold you the Husband of HYANTHE, than it is to you to know her the Wife of ADRASTUS. By these kind of Reasonings he at last entirely overcame the ill humour of the Prince, and fully convinc'd him that it was both for the advantage of his Love and Interest to match himself in the manner she had counselled.

Several days pass'd over in this manner, without any thing happening, which either advanc'd or diminish'd the hopes of this enamour'd Prince; for tho' he lost no Opportunity of entertaining the lovely Object of his Affections, and omitted nothing which he thought might prevail on her to consent to what both of them seem'd to wish with equal ardency, yet was she still resolute; and the more violently he enforc'd his pressures, the more severely did she repulse them: At length, the long-expected Proposition was made, the King of *Anatolia* acquainted his illustrious Guest, that he desired nothing so much, as that he should become his Son; and that since he thought fit to ask his Advice in the Choice of a Wife, the Person he should recommend to him should be no other than HYANTHE, who he knew was highly satisfied with his good Qualities, and that he would give in Dowry with her, a full discharge for ever, of that Tribute which had hitherto been paid by the Princes of *Caramania*

mania to the Crown of *Anatolia*. The secret Reward which ISMONDA was to give for the compliance of this Prince, made him answer in such a manner, as was very agreeable to the King's Desires: not the least Objection being made on either side, every thing was immediately concluded on, and a Day appointed for the Celebration of the Marriage. Never was impatience equal to that of THEODORE, to hear to ISMONDA the News that her Commands were now fulfill'd, and to demand the glorious recompence of his obedient Love: and that Lady, who with the Princess had been conceal'd in a little Drawing-room, joining to the King's Closet, on purpose to hear in what manner he receiv'd the Offer, made an excuse, as soon as she found the Prince was about to take his leave, to retire to her own Apartment; not doubting but the haste he made, was wholly on her account, and there prepared herself to receive him with all the tenderness she had promis'd, or that he could expect to find in her. Never had the God of tender Wishes a Sacrifice more ardent, or attended with a greater Zeal, than that now offered him by this enamour'd Pair: each strove to outvie the other in the soft Devotion; both yielded, and both conquer'd in their turn.

The Gratification of his Passion made the transported THEODORE in so good a humour,

humour, that he found it no difficulty to dissemble as much Tenderness for HYANTHE, as was necessary for the concealment of his Passion for ISMONDA; and with so much conduct did these happy Lovers behave themselves to each other, both in their Conversations in publick, and in the management of those secret meetings, which gave them the full Satisfaction of their mutual Desires, that the Intrigue between them, was never so much as suspected, even by those who had most reason to carry an observant Eye, HYANTHE and ADRASTUS.

The Day being arriv'd for the Solemnization of the Wedding, it was perform'd with the utmost magnificence: all the Nobility of both Sexes endeavour'd to appear in the most grand manner that their Abilities would permit; the Ladies especially, forgot no Ornaments which might add a Lustre to their natural Charms; but ISMONDA, like a Star of superiour Magnitude, eclips'd the Shine of every other Beauty; that sweet Contentment which now sat smiling in her Eyes, improving all her Air, and heightning every Grace, rendered her not only more lovely than all the contemporary Fair-ones, but also excelling what even herself had been used to appear: Enjoyment had been so far from lessening the Ardors of THEODORE, that never had he

he languish'd with more strong or vehement Desires than at this moment, and she who was perfectly well vers'd in the Language of the Eyes, found enough in his to assure her, that the yet untasted Pleasure he was to reap that Night with HYANTHE, would but faintly compensate for the want of those which were in her power to bestow. And exulting in the Triumph that she alone was mistress of his *Soul*, easily absolv'd her Fate, for the necessity there was, for their common Interest, that his *Body* must, at some times, be elsewhere devoted.

POOR HYANTHE, who had also the most tender affection for the happy THEODORE, contented herself with the Complaisance he paid her, imagining the little warmth of his Caresses were only owing to the fault of Nature, and that all he knew of Love, he felt for her. All Parties, therefore, had something to delight themselves with, and every one being satisfied in their several Circumstances, made it not their business to search into the private Behaviour of each other.

The Time being at hand, in which it was thought proper the Prince should return to *Caramania*, the punctual ISMONDA, counterfeiting the extremest Friendship to the Princess, entreated she would permit her to attend her to her new Sovereignty, and telling her, she should be the most unhappy

happy Woman on earth, to be left behind her; that in her Journey, and in a place to whose Customs and Manners she was wholly a stranger, she might probably wish for a Companion, to whom she could impart her Mind with that freedom which she had been accustom'd to do to her; and conjured her to grant the Request she made, of being permitted to go with her: that the Princess was both surpriz'd and pleas'd at so uncommon a proof of Fidelity and Love, as this had the appearance of. And is it possible, *said she*, that Friendship can carry one to greater lengths than Love?—Can you so easily be prevail'd on to quit the Arms of a Husband whom you love, and by whom you are so well belov'd, only to follow a Princess who has it not in her power to give you any Blessings proportion'd to those you leave behind? Your Service, *replied she*, O most Excellent and Royal HYANTHE, I always look'd on as the supremest Blessing of my Life; and while possess'd of that, can know no want of any other Happiness: As for ADRASTUS, if his great Employments will not permit him wholly to take leave of *Anatolia*, the distance between the Lands is not so great, but that he may sometimes pay us a Visit at the *Caramanian* Court: or when you are settled there, and the knowledge of your Goodness makes you as dear to your Subjects there, as justly here you are,

are, ISMONDA may be the better spared, and I may then return to ADRASTUS a Wife who prefers him to every thing but her Love and Duty to her Princess.

These kind of Discourses were too obliging to the Princess, for her to refuse the Purport of them; and in spite of all the opposition which ADRASTUS could make, it was resolved that ISMONDA should attend her to *Caramania*.

Thus did this Prince purchase the Goodwill of his Subjects, and the Admiration of the whole World, by the same means which secured to himself the Enjoyment of his Wishes, and at his return receiv'd the Thanks of an adoring People for an imaginary Obligation; being look'd on as the Father of his Country, for an Action only influenced by Self-satisfaction, and in which he had no other View than such as were very distant from deserving the Trophies erected to it.

But having done so much merely for the sake of ISMONDA, who would not believe his Soul so wholly devoted to her, that it could have left room for any other Idea; yet, dear as she was to him, the Love of Variety interven'd, and made him wish to taste new Joys in a young Beauty's Arms, whose Name was LUTETIA, the Daughter of a *Caramanian* Lord, and brought by him to Court, to attend the Princess on her first arri-

arrival. His Sollicitations had the effect it was usual for them to inspire, nor could those Charms from which all the Tyes of Duty and premier Engagements to one of the best of Husbands, were too weak to defend the Heart of ISMONDA, fail of gaining a Conquest over one so unexperienc'd, so unprejudiced, as was that of this young Maid. Soon did the eternally-successful THEODORE triumph in her Virgin Favours, and as soon, alas! did he forget the Bliss; the Image of ISMONDA now return'd with former force into his Soul, and reproach'd him in Idea, for having aim'd at Joys with any other Object: he regretted his Inconstancy, could not forgive himself for having once been false to her, who of all her Sex alone had the power of inspiring him with a serious Passion, and for whose Love he thought himself so much obliged, that the Service of his whole Life was too little to requite the Blessing; and of that burning, that impatient Longing which lately fill'd all his Faculties for the innocent LUTETIA, nothing was now remaining but a cool Pity for the Ruin he had involv'd her in.

The unhappy Victim of Desire immediately perceiv'd to what a wretched state her easy yielding, and her fond belief had reduced her; yet still loving him with an unbated Passion, she forbore either to reproach or to complain of his Unkindness, nor but to
Heaven

Heaven and the unpying Stars reveal'd her weight of Anguish; till finding in herself that common Consequence which attends Raptures such as she too lavishly had indulg'd, the terror of approaching Shame, and the just rage of an offended and dishonour'd Father, made her resolve to intreat the Prince to find some Expedient which might shelter her from the impending Storm: but he so carefully avoided all discourse with her in private, that tho' she watch'd with all imaginable diligence, she could never find an opportunity of speaking to him. It would be but impertinent to trouble my Reader with any repetition of the Lamentations she made, or the secret Miseries of her tormented Mind; it is very easy to conceive what a young Creature, thus ruin'd, thus abandon'd, yet still loving the dear Undoer, must sustain: I shall only say, she wanted nothing but Courage, to send herself at once from the Vale of Wretchedness into which her Inadvertency had plung'd her, and disappoint the Infamy which the condition she was in was shortly to bring upon her. But whether it were, that she could not resolve to leave the World while THEODORE was in it, or that Life still flatter'd her with some faint Hopes that he might again return to her Embraces, and bless her with renew'd Endearments, she could not, or she would not fly to that Re-

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medy

medy to which the Desperate have usually recourse : But still revolving in her Mind some means to communicate her Condition to him, who alone had the power of rendering it supportable ; and still finding all the Efforts she made for that purpose ineffectual, she at last took up a Resolution to write, and in these terms related the Dictates of her Love, her Grief, and her Despair.

To the most Charming of his Sex, the accomplish'd THEODORE, Prince of Carmania.

‘ **I** S it because you are my Sovereign,
 ‘ that you imagine yourself absolv’d
 ‘ for my undoing?——Is it a part of your
 ‘ Prerogative to ruin and betray?——
 ‘ Can Royalty convert those Acts to Vir-
 ‘ tue, which in another Man wou’d be
 ‘ look’d on as the extremest Degrees of
 ‘ Vice?——Oh ! no ; Power is not a
 ‘ Sanction for Oppression.——The Duty
 ‘ of a Prince is to redress, not offer In-
 ‘ juries.——Where but to the Throne
 ‘ should we appeal for Justice, or for Mer-
 ‘ cy?——How wretched then is poor
 ‘ LUTETIA’s Case, wrong’d by the only
 ‘ Man who should protect her Innocence,
 ‘ or revenge her Ruin?——Oh Prince !
 ‘ have you not a thousand times sworn
 ‘ you

' you lov'd me, that you would always do
 ' so, and that my Peace, my Interest, my
 ' Reputation, should ever be valued by you
 ' as your own; yet have you not abandon'd
 ' me to all the Miseries of Despair
 ' and Shame!——To the just Upbraidings
 ' of the censorious World, and the more
 ' terrible Remora's of a guilty Mind?——
 ' Wild with unsated Love, with Tender-
 ' ness abus'd, with the Horrors of approach-
 ' ing, sure, irremediable Woe; I suffer more
 ' than Words can speak, or Thought un-
 ' feeling it, conceive; yet are you the
 ' cruel, lovely Author of it unmov'd, un-
 ' touch'd, and pitiless of all this mighty
 ' Load of Anguish:——But lest you should
 ' plead Ignorance of the most poignant part
 ' of my Misfortune, know I am with child;
 ' and as if it were not a sufficient Curse
 ' to wear your faithless Image in my Mind,
 ' Fate has decreed me to bear another,
 ' which soon will become past conceal-
 ' ment, and grow an undeniable Witness
 ' of its Mother's Shame.——Wretch that
 ' I am, to what must I have recourse, by
 ' what Replies silence the just Reproaches
 ' of an enrag'd, disgrac'd, and troubled Fa-
 ' ther!——How excuse my Crime to
 ' Heaven and H^YANTHE!——How answer
 ' even the unhappy Product of your dis-
 ' sembled Raptures, whose guiltless Cries
 ' will every moment upbraid me for giv-

' ing it a Life, whose Portion must be on-
 ' ly Infamy!——Oh! I am lost for ever—
 ' undone in every Circumstance; yet let
 ' those Powers who know my Soul be
 ' judge, if all that can attend a Crime like
 ' mine, here, or hereafter, is half so dread-
 ' ful as the shock of being by you for-
 ' faken.——Bless'd with your Love, I
 ' could have defy'd my Fate, and with a
 ' Smile met every other Woe.— Charm
 ' me then, once more, with Love restor'd:
 ' if ever I was worthy those soft Endear-
 ' ments which made Guilt so pleasing, I
 ' still am so; nor Age, nor Sickness has
 ' deform'd my Bloom; my Eyes, tho now
 ' o'erflow'd with Tears, would, at your
 ' presence, regain their usual Lustre, and
 ' that Vivacity, you have so often praised,
 ' again return, and quicken all my Air.—
 ' If I am chang'd in aught from what I
 ' was, 'tis you, O Prince! have made me
 ' so, and when you please can restore me
 ' to myself, and to those blissful Moments,
 ' which assur'd me nothing could give a
 ' greater Satisfaction to the royal THEO-
 ' DORE, than to know I was his

Faithful, and most

Passionately Devoted

LUTETIA.

P. S.

P. S. ‘ If urg’d by Griefs too mighty to
 ‘ be long sustain’d, I do a desperate Mur-
 ‘ der on myself and the unhappy Unborn,
 ‘ let not my Rashness, but your own Cru-
 ‘ elty, bear the blame; since it is much
 ‘ easier to live by your relenting, than to
 ‘ seek a Shelter in the Grave from your
 ‘ Inhumanity.——Once more I beg you
 ‘ to compassionate my Miseries, and that
 ‘ you will no longer shun a Wretch who
 ‘ cannot be but yours.’

She had written this Epistle some days, and kept it in her Pocket, without being able to get an opportunity of delivering it to him, having no Person in the world to whose Trust she dare commit a Paper of so much consequence: At last Fortune afforded one as ample, as the miserable Circumstances she was in could hope. *HYANTHE* being a little indispos’d, kept her Chamber; and the Prince coming to visit her, at a time when none but *LUTETIA* happen’d to be in the Room, that unfortunate Lady made a pretence of opening the Door for him as he was going out, and slipp’d the Letter into his hands with these Words: I conjure you, my Lord! *said she*, to read that, and afford some Answer to her who is dying with your Unkindness. This not being a place in which she could expect

him to make her any reply, she waited not for it; but immediately retir'd to her Seat at the foot of the Bed, where the Princess was reclin'd, and by that means lost the sight of that Confusion with which the Prince was cover'd at receiving a Salutation, which he had long fear'd to meet.

'Tis certain, that tho' he had but small remains of that Passion, which can properly be call'd Love, he had Honour and Good-nature enough to make him extremely commiserate her Distress, and felt a Concern for her, which might very well bear the Name of the most tender Friendship: fain he would have talk'd to her, and let her have known, by word of mouth, how great a share he bore in her Misfortune; but the Fears he was in, that a private Interview might by some accident be discover'd, and occasion some Suspicion of the Truth, especially when the Condition she was in should be made known, prevented him. He equally dreaded the Jealousy of HYANTHE, or ISMONDA; the one, Interest of State oblig'd him to dissemble with; and the other, his still sincere Affection made him fearful to offend. These Apprehensions, mix'd with his Regard for LUTETIA, and the Uncertainty in what manner he should behave toward her, kept his Thoughts in a perpetual rack, till after many Resolutions form'd and reject-

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ed, he at length pitch'd on one, which promis'd him some ease from that Dilemma he had long been involv'd in.

MARMILLIO, who on all occasions, particularly in those of his Amours, was always his Confidant and Adviser, was the Person to whom he apply'd himself in this juncture ; and having made him acquainted with the whole Affair, and shew'd him the Letter which LUTETIA had written, he order'd him to wait on that Lady, to bear to her his most tender Respects, and excuse his not coming to her in Person, because it might occasion some Jealousy in HYANTHE ; who, he bid him say, had already given some hints of a propensity in her Nature to that Passion. He desired him also to make use of his utmost Efforts to persuade her to retire from Court for some time, and that nothing should be wanting to make whatever Solitude she should chuse agreeable.

It was with the greatest reason that the Prince always made choice of this Favourite for the management of such Affairs, because he was not only extremely faithful to the Trust repos'd in him, but had also a ready Wit and Invention capable of carrying on almost any Enterprize he took delight in, and had a Genius naturally turn'd to Love-Intrigues. He assur'd the Prince, he would do in every thing as he had directed,

and that he did not doubt but to plead so successfully with LUTETIA, as to make her accede to every thing they desired of her; and also more contented in her Mind, than she had been of a long time.

There is a great deal owing to the good Inclination of the Person employ'd. MAR-MILLIO went about this Affair with so much Resolution to accomplish it, that he could not fail of doing so; and by tender and obliging Words, at first combating with the Tears and Impatiencies of the unfortunate LUTETIA, by degrees brought her to listen to his Arguments with Moderation, and at last to think her Circumstances less wretched than she had believ'd them. He assur'd her that she was as much as ever the Object of the Prince's Affection, that there was nothing he so ardently long'd for, as an opportunity to convince her of it, but that the present situation of Affairs would not permit it. Time, *said this subtle Insinuator*, will convince the sweet LUTETIA, that nothing is so dear to Prince THEODORE as the possession of her Beauties, and that he but denies himself the present Bliss, till he can bring about some Designs, which may secure him hereafter the uninterrupted Felicity—Had you seen, *continued he*, with how much Agony of Soul he express'd himself on this occasion, you would not blame but pity him. Tell her, *said he to me*,
MAR-

MARMILLIO, that all that her own soft Thoughts can form of Love, I feel for her ; that in my unextinguishable Passion, there is all the Tenderneſs of *Woman*, blended with the moſt vigorous and burning Energy of eager Wiſhing, that e'er enflam'd the Heart of *Man*.—But, *pursu'd* MARMILLIO, to tell you what he ſaid, is but to make you half ſenſible of what he would have you know—to do juſtice to his Meaning, I muſt be able to ſpeak in the manner he did, muſt aſſume a Softneſs which my Voice is incapable of wearing ; muſt teach my Eyes to languish, and every Feature to declare the God with which he is ſo powerfully inspir'd.—I am, alas ! an unfit Proxy to reveal what 'tis he ſuffers, and how much he loves ; and if your own Imagination makes not up for what I am deficient in, my Prince can never appear what in reality he is.

By theſe kind of Diſcourſes, ſhe was won to believe herſelf as happy, as ſhe, indeed, was miſerable : and now employing her whole time in Artifices to conceal her growing Shame, and to contrive ſome plausible excuſe for leaving the Court, ſhe prepar'd herſelf to go to a private Lodging, which the Care of MARMILLIO provided for her, wholly ſatisfy'd with the Aſſurances he every day continu'd to give her of the Prince's inviolable Affection, and ſending

ing by the mouth of that Favourite, every thing she would have him know.

Thus was LUTETIA satisfy'd, and the Prince reliev'd from those Apprehensions which had been so uneasy to him, that the Fondness or Despair of that unhappy Creature might drive her to some extravagances of Behaviour, which might betray the whole Affair between them, either to HY-ANTHE, or to her whose Displeasure more he dreaded, ISMONDA: but little did MARMILLIO think, that while he was serving his Prince, he was involving himself in Difficulties, from which not all his Wit and Address could disengage him for a long time.

Being, as I have before observ'd, of an amorous Disposition, he was scarce ever without an Intrigue, and sometimes had three or four upon his hands at once. Among the number of those for whom he had entertain'd a Desire, was IRENE, a young Lady, whose Brother had been first Minister of State to the Father of THEODORE, and tho' somewhat less in favour than he had been, was yet a very considerable Man both in the Court, and in the Army. It was not without the utmost Labour, long Affluities, repeated Vows and Protestations, and a solemn Contract of Marriage, that MARMILLIO had prevail'd on her to allow him the gratification of his Passion; but no-
thing

thing being farther from his Intentions, than to make good his Promises, he always found some pretence for deferring the Celebration of their Nuptials, whenever press'd to it by her. Finding herself, at length, in the same condition with the unfortunate LUTETIA, she renew'd her Desires of becoming his Wife with greater force than ever; but he had artifice enough to turn those very Reasons she made use of, against what she desired: he told her, that should the Marriage now be solemniz'd, it would be a plain Demonstration that there had been too great an Intimacy between them; and that it would be infinitely more for her Reputation to keep the whole Affair a Secret; still continuing to assure her, that as soon as she was deliver'd of her Burden, he would perform what she required, and he had sworn.—He enforc'd these Arguments with so much Wit and Eloquence, and accompany'd them with so great a show of Tenderness, that had the Person to whom they were apply'd, been infinitely more practis'd in Deceit than was IRENE, she might have imagin'd it sincere. The pains he took to make her easy, were not, however, so much the Effect of Love as Fear; he dreaded the great Power of her Brother, and the Influence which the Complaint of a Woman of IRENE'S Quality and Character would have on the Senate, in case she should make

a publick claim of the Contract he had made ; and being in his Nature a marriage-hater, and the Desires he had for IRENE fully satiated by repeated and unrestrain'd Enjoyments, nothing could appear to him a greater misfortune than to be compell'd to become her Husband.

To add to the Indifference he already had for this Lady, there was lately arriv'd at the Court of *Caramania* a young Beauty, with whom he fell passionately in love, as much as that Passion can be call'd so, which tends to the Ruin of the Object admired. ARILLA, for that is her Name, has Charms which might almost justify Inconstancy, and render the Complaints of the Forsaken of no effect, where Youth and Nature are to decide the Contest. Often had MARMILLIO lov'd, but ne'er, till now, experienc'd with how much force the God can actuate ; and finding from the excessive Modesty of this new Charmer, not the least Shadow of a Hope to countenance his Designs, he grew almost mad ; Sleep was a stranger to his Nights, and Peace forsook his Days : Yet not being of a humour on which Despair could easily seize, he resolv'd not to desist till he had try'd every way which Love and Wit had the power of inspiring in the most determin'd Heart. He had, indeed, this to encourage his Attempts, that he perceiv'd he was not disagreeable to
her ;

her ; that he had only Virtue to oppose, and no premier Inclination to another, or Aversion to him, made war against his Hopes : he imagin'd therefore, that what Modesty and Virgin Bashfulness refus'd to grant, if seiz'd by amorous Violence would not appear a Crime too great to be forgiven ; having often in mind that saying of a famous *English* Poet, which Language he understood perfectly well :

*Force is the last Relief which Lovers find ;
And is the best Excuse for Womankind.*

His Experience in the humour of that Sex inform'd him, that many of them are too prudent to resent what is past retrieve, and that most are more willing to pardon a Presumption of that kind when done, than to give their Consent to the committing it. The gentleness of ARILLA's Behaviour made him half assur'd she was of this Temper, and that he had nothing worse to fear from her after the perpetration of his Desires, than he now sustain'd in the vain Prosecution of them.

Having fix'd himself in this Resolution, all he wanted was an opportunity to put it in practice ; but tho' he scarce lost sight of her one moment, and still observ'd her Motions whether at Court or at her own Apartment, he could not for some days see her

her alone, some impertinent Interruption still broke off the preparatory Discourses he was entertaining her with, to bring about his Purpose; but at length his zealous Attendance met the Reward for which 'twas paid. The Prince and Princess being gone to take the Air together, attended by a great Retinue, none of the Maids of the Bed-Chamber, who were in waiting, happen'd to be left at home, but ARILLA; who, desirous of indulging her own Meditations, had pretended an Indisposition, and desired to be excus'd from her Attendance. She had shut herself into the Princess's Closet, designing to pass some hours in private; when MARMILLIO, whose Eyes were never off her, having observ'd what had pass'd, took the boldness to knock at the door: Little imagining who it was, and unsuspecting the instant Danger with which she was threatned, she readily open'd it, and gave entrance to the Man who came prepar'd to ruin her. The Resolution with which he had arm'd himself for this Encounter, gave a greater fierceness to his Air, than, till this moment, he had ever presum'd to approach her with; which, together with his making fast the Door, as soon as he was admitted, gave the timorous Maid some apprehensions of his Designs: What is it you mean, MARMILLIO? *said she, in a trembling and scarce intelligible accent.* To do Justice, *reply'd he,* to the burning Passion of my Soul, which I

too much have trifled with, and which will now no longer be deny'd.—Yield then, *pursu'd he, looking on her with Eyes that seem'd to flame with raging and impatient Love*, nor rob the Joys I come determin'd to possess of half their Sweetness, by a vain Resistance, and unavailing Coyness.—You will not sure, *cry'd she, more frightened*, have recourse to brutal Force?—Consider where we are, and who I am, a Maid of Quality, and under the immediate Care of Royal Power?—Not all the Powers, *interrupted he, catching her in his Arms*, of Heaven and Earth shall now deter MARMILLIO from his purpose—I love, and cannot live without you—give then to the Winds thy Fears, thy Scruples, and all the Foes of Pleasure—indulge the ravishing Delights which soft Desire affords—let Love and Nature loose, and take thy share of Joy, nor suffer me to be bless'd alone.—He accompany'd these Words with Actions, such as left her no room to doubt if her continuing to refuse wou'd be of much consequence to her Preservation; and tho' she was far from yielding, she wanted, in this surprizing exigence, Spirit and Resolution sufficient to oppose in any manner which could oblige him to give over his Attempt.—In the midst of Tears, Tremblings, faint Entreaties, and Reproaches, he accomplish'd his Design, and not till he
had

had snatch'd the guilty Bliss, gave himself leisure to reply to what she said.

But when secure of his Desires, and possess'd of all his wild Passion aim'd at, he then exerted all those Arts which had entitl'd him to so many Successes with the Fair, to defend the Violence he had been guilty of.—He employ'd that Wit and Eloquence which Men generally make use of, to melt the unwary Maid to grant what they wish; to argue her into a Belief, that she not only ought to pardon, but also to approve of what he had done, as the extremest Testimony of his unbounded Passion, which would not suffer any Considerations, not even those of offending her, than which, *he said*, nothing could be more formidable, to be an obstruction to the attainment of his Hopes. The hurry and confusion of her Thoughts, left her as little the power of making any Answer to him, as his Impatiencies had permitted him before; and he went on uninterrupted, with his Persuasions, vowing not to leave her till she had assur'd him of his Pardon; which, at last, reflecting that what had happen'd was now irremediable, she granted, and without a second Ravishment, suffer'd him to take a full Enjoyment of those Charms which before had bless'd him but by halves.

The Cravings of tumultuous Passion being thus appeas'd, and Tranquillity now settled

settled in that Breast, which lately swell'd with the most disturb'd Emotions, cool Recollection had liberty to resume its place; and bethinking himself, that if the Princess should return and surprize him in this privacy with her Woman, it would give occasion for Discourses, such as were no way agreeable to his present Circumstances, and the appearance of that Fidelity it behov'd him to behave with to IRENE, who was not yet retir'd from Court, and he very well knew kept a jealous Eye on all his Actions: he therefore took his leave of the undone ARILLA, giving her the liberty of indulging Meditation on what had past, while he, gay and triumphant on the easy Conquest, retired to taste the Joys of BACCHUS, who, with the God of Love, are the only Deities he acknowledges.

It was in the time that he was carrying on this double Intrigue with IRENE and ARILLA, that he was employ'd by the Prince to negotiate his Affair with LUTETIA; and being known to be very often with that Lady both in publick and private, his Innocence in that matter rendring him less cautious in being seen with her, than with those whom he visited on his own account, the whole Court gave her to him for a Mistress. Some imagin'd he solicited her on honourable Terms, but others who were better acquainted with his Disposition, and had

also some suspicion of her Condition, made no doubt, but that she had yielded to his Suit, on Terms less advantageous to herself than Marriage. Among the number of those whom these Discourses reach'd, were IRENE and ARILLA : few Women are possess'd of greater share of Pride, Spirit, and Passion, than the former of these Ladies, which, join'd to the Power which the Contract between them gave her over him, and the Circumstances to which her yielding to his Pressures had reduc'd her, made her look upon this imaginary Wrong as the most insupportable Indignity, the common Chat being confirm'd to her by some busy People, who pretended to be in the Secret, either to make themselves pass for Persons of an extraordinary Intelligence, or guessing how the Affair stood between her and MARMILLIO, talk'd in this manner on purpose to see how she would resent it. She grew perfectly outrageous, swore she wou'd have Justice or Revenge ; and he hapning to come in to visit her just in the moment when her tempestuous Passion was work'd up to the greatest height that mortal Fury can arrive at, she fell on him with Imprecations and Revilings, such as both terrify'd and astonish'd him ; but the extremity of her Rage, rendering what she said scarce intelligible, and mentioning only that she was ill treated and neglected for a Rival's sake, with-

without naming LUTETIA; conscious Guilt made him not imagine it was any other than ARILLA that she meant, and entreating her to hear him, was beginning to swear he never had a Thought of Tenderness for that Young Lady, and that the devoirs he paid her, were only on the account of a dear Friend, who was passionately in Love with her, and had employ'd him to solicit his Cause. — Can the divine IRENE, *said he to her, with the most tender Air,* be so insensible of her Power of Charming, as to imagine the Man, whom she vouchsafes to bless, can throw away a Wish on the mean Beauties which ARILLA boasts? ARILLA! *cry'd she, interrupting him,* What mean you by ARILLA? Do you hope by a poor Equivocation to evade my just Resentment? and by protesting your Innocence of a Crime of which you are not suspected, silence the Accusations of that wherein you are guilty? — Inconstant, ingrateful, and perfidious Man! too well you know 'tis not ARILLA, but LUTETIA, is the Object of my Jealousy. Now was MARMILLIO, indeed, confounded; tho' wholly free from the Crime with which he was charg'd on her account, he was now sensible, on Reflection, that he had behav'd in a manner such as might very well make him appear otherwise, and having thrown away on ARILLA's score the only Excuse his Invention could

supply him with, had nothing now to alledge in vindication of his frequent Visits to LUTETIA ; unless he had acquainted her with the Secret of his Prince ; and that, not all the Fears he was in from the Rage of IRENE, could make him venture to do.—

She was not only a very great Favourite with the Princess ; but had also a more than ordinary Intimacy with ISMONDA, and how far Jealousy or Curiosity might transport her to mention the Affair, he knew not : He therefore thought it better to run the risque of whatever her Indignation might attempt against him, than dare the Displeasure of THEODORE in a Business of so much consequence. The confusion which appear'd in all his Air, and incapacity of answering to her Reproaches on this score, confirm'd her that they were but too just ; and giving a loose to her impatient Rage, she said all that a jealous and distracted Woman could invent : mingling with her Reproaches, the most bitter Menaces, and vowing by every thing that was sacred, that she would reveal the whole Story to her Brother, who would not fail to call him to a severe account for the Dishonour he had brought upon his Family. MARMILLIO told her, with his accusom'd softness, that he had nothing to fear but her Disquiet ; and began to persuade her to more Moderation, entreating her to trust to time for an explanation

tion of his Innocence; and endeavouring by a thousand new-invented Oaths to bring her to the belief, that she alone was the Mistress of his Affections. But all his Artifices were vain; it was now too late to dissipate an Opinion which his Disorders had at first establish'd in her, and she rather seem'd more incens'd that he pretended to deny the Fact for which he was accus'd, yet gave no reasons for his having acted in a manner which had made him be thought guilty; and looking on the present Tenderness of his Behaviour only as an Imposition, would not suffer him to proceed, but flew out of the Room from him, and shut herself into her Closet; whence, tho' he sent several Messages to her by her Servant, she would not be prevail'd on to come out till he had left her Apartment.

To heighten the Chagrin he conceiv'd at this Adventure, when he came home he found a Letter, which his Servant inform'd him had been left for him in the Morning. He presently knew the Character to be that of ARILLA, and was not a little surpriz'd at her writing to him, being that Night to meet her by appointment, at a House he had contriv'd on purpose for their secret Rendezvous, and where, in the full Enjoyment of his yet unfated Wishes, he had hoped to make himself some amends for the Vexations of the Day: opening it,

therefore, with a mixture of Delight and Fear, he found it contain'd these Lines.

To the Perjured and Inconstant
MARMILLIO.

‘ **T**HE Heart that has plurality of En-
 ‘ gagements, cannot be said to be
 ‘ truly affected with any one of them, nor
 ‘ consequently feel any great Concern at
 ‘ breaking off. — In the Charms of
 ‘ LUTETIA, you will easily forget the in-
 ‘ ferior ones ARILLA is mistress of ; yet it
 ‘ is so natural, at least to me, to expect a
 ‘ return equal in value to what I give, that
 ‘ I cannot be so fondly complaisant, as to
 ‘ make a Present of my Affections, where
 ‘ all the Reward I can hope to receive, is Hy-
 ‘ pocrify and Deceit : neither am I enough
 ‘ experienc’d in the Custom of a Court, to
 ‘ approve, or indeed to know how to carry
 ‘ on the Gallantries I see so much in fa-
 ‘ shion. — If I love at all, it must be
 ‘ with sincerity ; I have not yet learned to
 ‘ parcel out my Heart, and divide my Ten-
 ‘ derness as I would do my Time, one
 ‘ Hour with this, the next with a different
 ‘ Admirer, a third with another, and so
 ‘ on, pretending equally alike to all : —
 ‘ No, he that has me, must have my whole
 ‘ Soul, and every Faculty must be the dear
 ‘ Engrosser’s. — This is indeed to love ;
 ‘ all

‘ all other Passions which bear that Name,
 ‘ are no more than so many Prophanations
 ‘ of the Deity ; and since no other can be
 ‘ hoped for in a Correspondence with the
 ‘ false MARMILLIO, I abjure it for ever.—
 ‘ Lose not therefore any of those Moments,
 ‘ which, doubtless, you may employ with
 ‘ more pleasure, in vainly waiting for me
 ‘ at that House which was intended for
 ‘ our meeting.— It is not fit that Truth
 ‘ and Tendernefs, like mine, should be the
 ‘ Recompence of Perjury and Ingratitude,
 ‘ such as yours ; and tho by Violence you
 ‘ have already triumph’d over my defence-
 ‘ less Body, my Mind you never shall sub-
 ‘ due.— Ruin’d as I am by your brutal
 ‘ Passion, my nobler Part is uncorrupted
 ‘ yet ; nor will I ever, by a shameful yield-
 ‘ ing, become Partner in your Guilt, and
 ‘ the Assistant in my own Destruction.—
 ‘ If I complain not of the Injury you have
 ‘ done me, to aught but Heaven, impute
 ‘ it not to any Tendernefs for you, but
 ‘ to my own Modesty ;— and the know-
 ‘ ledge that there is no Revenge I could
 ‘ take, which would be equal to your Crime :
 ‘ from your own changing Temper, I doubt
 ‘ not but to see worse Effects fall on you,
 ‘ than any I could wish, much more inflict ;
 ‘ —in the perfect Assurance, therefore,
 ‘ that my Wrongs will not go unreveng’d .
 ‘ by a Hand more capable of punishing, I

' take my everlasting leave, only concern'd
 ' that I cannot, without severely adding to
 ' the Misfortune I labour under, impart
 ' your Villany to the World, and preserve
 ' my too believing Sex from giving credit
 ' to your Vows, and being by your pernicious
 ' Artifices ruin'd and undone, like

The Unfortunate

ARILLA.

P. S. ' I accuse you not with any hope
 ' of hearing you justified :—— Attempt
 ' not therefore to deceive me a second
 ' time; I am convinced of your Infidelity
 ' to me, and new Passion for LUTETIA,
 ' and all you can urge will be in vain.——
 ' The Contents of this Epistle, are the Dictates
 ' of a Resolution, which it is not
 ' in your power to shake; and I should
 ' merit the Infamy which must attend me,
 ' if, after the Detection of your Baseness,
 ' I should put it in your power to abandon
 ' me.—— I desire no Answer to
 ' this, nor will read any thing that comes
 ' from you; and because the sight of a
 ' Man, who has so greatly injur'd me, is an
 ' Aggravation of my Grievs, the only Favour
 ' I request of you, is, to shun me as
 ' much as possible, while there is a Necessity
 ' of my appearing in publick: a few
 ' days shall put it out of yours or my own
 ' power

‘ power ever to meet again.—Once more
 ‘ eternally adieu.’

Never was Vexation superior to that which the disappointed MARMILLIO was involved in at reading these Lines; he flew directly to her Apartment, but her Woman was order’d to deny admittance to him: he afterwards writ a Letter to her, protesting his Innocence in the most moving terms that Love and Eloquence could inspire; but it was the next moment sent back to him unopen’d. It was in vain that he attempted to see her at Court; she had pretended a sudden Illness, and kept her Chamber. He now perceiv’d indeed, that she was mistress of a Resolution equal to what she boasted, and infinitely superior to what he ever found before in any of her Sex, and was as much at a loss in what manner he should go about to overcome it, as he was unable to endure the thoughts of her persisting in it. To add to his disquiets, he heard that she had sent to intreat leave of the Princess to retire into the Country; which being granted, all things were preparing for her Journey, and to what place was unknown. Never was man in more perplexity of soul than was he, equally divided between his grief for the loss of ARILLA, and his fears from what might happen by the displeasure of IRENE; whom he could no way appease, tho’ he
 at-

attempted it by all the artifices Invention could supply him with. That Brother with whom she threaten'd him, having been some time on a foreign Embassy, was now on his return, and was expected in *Caramania* in a few days: what Shame had prevented herself from revealing to the Princess, he doubted whether she would scruple to make known to him, who, in the vindication of the Honour of his House, would certainly make his appeal to the Prince, for obliging him to the performance of his Contract. He was very sensible, that THEODORE could not well incur the displeasure of a Man so dear to the *Caramanians*, and who had been so great a Favourite with his Father; and the thoughts of being compel'd to marry a Woman for whom he no longer had the least Remains either of Inclination or Tenderness, were insupportable. Reflecting therefore, that he was brought under the necessity of these apprehensions only by his Fidelity to his Prince, and taking upon him the reputation of being enamour'd of LUTETIA, he took the liberty of complaining to him of it, disclosing the whole Story both of IRENE and ARILLA. A visible Trouble spread itself all over the Face of THEODORE while he was speaking, and when he found he had concluded, You were to blame, *answered he somewhat angrily,* to engage yourself so far with a Woman of

IRENE'S

IRENE's Quality, and who had such powerful Friends to back the Intercessions she may make against you.—I know not how you will be able to avoid making good to her what you have vow'd——but as for ARILLA, I look on that Affair of little consequence: you have enjoy'd, and must forget her Charms. This Reply stung MARMILLIO to the quick; he expected a different Treatment from a Prince, whose Service alone had involv'd him in these Difficulties; and for a moment losing all regard to the Character of the Person who had spoke, Were it so easy to throw off the Impression which Beauty makes, *said he*, your Highness would have been in less apprehensions from ISMONDA; nor had I been overwhelm'd in the Disquiets I am at present under, by becoming your Proxy to LUTETIA. These words being utter'd with an unusual warmth, made the Prince look on them as an upbraiding; and conceiving the utmost disdain at so insolent a presuming in a Person whom he consider'd as his Creature, I am sorry, MARMILLIO, *resumed he*, that I employ'd you in a business which you imagine disadvantageous——there are many of my Court who would have thought themselves highly favour'd, had I given them the same mark of my Confidence, and perhaps too would have been as capable of serving me in any thing I had entrusted to their

Care:

Care: at least, when next I stand in need of a Friend, I shall make trial of some other. In the mean time, *pursued he, in a Tone which express'd the utmost dissatisfaction,* I would have you remember, that whatever parity there is between our Amours, there is none between a Sovereign and his Subject; and learn from thence, that I alone, of all the *Caramanians*, am born to act without controul. MARMILLIO, who from the moment he had spoke these rash words was sensible of his Boldness, and the effect it would have on the haughty and resentful Humour of this Prince, was about to say something which might compensate for his former Behaviour; when THEODORE, too much incens'd for further Conversation with him at this time, flew out of the Room, bidding him be dumb, for he had already said enough to let him into the Disposition of the Person he had trusted.

MARMILLIO now found on how unstable a Foundation the Favourites of Princes build their Hopes, and that he had little to expect from the Friendship of THEODORE, in case IRENE should offer her Complaint, as he made not the least question but she would, at the arrival of her Brother. Amidst all these tumultuous Agitations, the Memory of ARILLA, and the Impossibility there seem'd of ever obtaining a Reconciliation there, rack'd him with
all

all the Torments which attend Despair :
in which Condition let us leave him, till
fresh Intelligence shall arrive ; which I ex-
pect in a few days, to gratify the Impa-
tience of both my Reader and myself.

The End of the First Part.



PART



P A R T II.



FOR some Days never mortal Man labour'd under greater Perplexities than did MARMILLIO, burning with vain and unextinguishable Desires for the re-enjoyment of ARILLA ; trembling with Apprehensions of what might ensue from the Jealousy of the haughty IRENE, and full of the utmost Discontent for the Displeasure of a Prince, whom he had serv'd so faithfully, and with so much hazard to himself ; the painful *present*, the Fears of the *future*, and those Racks of Thought which are inseparable from a State of uncertainty, made his Mind a perfect Chaos of confus'd Idea's, incapable of Invention, Ease, or Resolution. He attended the Levee of THEODORE every day, as usual, however ; but found that what had pass'd between them, had made a strange Alteration in the Behaviour of that Prince towards him : He found himself no longer honour'd with his Confidence, he spoke
not

not to him, but in general Conversation; and in the presence of Persons, who would not fail to have endeavour'd to find out the cause of so sudden an Estrangement of that Intimacy which had formerly been observ'd between them: And what confirm'd him more than all, that there was little hope of a Reconciliation, was, that those very People who had most appear'd his Enemies, were most now encouraged by the changed Disposition of his offended Sovereign: His Discernment and piercing Penetration were now of no other service to him, than to torment him more; he could not forbear accusing THEODORE of Ingratitude and Mutability, but was obliged to keep his Discontents conceal'd; and tho' he privately murmur'd, durst not complain, nor openly wear the least appearance of Disgust.

But tho for a time he had lost the Favour of his Prince, *Fortune*, who had not yet deserted him, sent him, when he least expected it, an opportunity of relieving himself from the worst and most dangerous part of his Inquietudes. He was but just risen one Morning, when a Page of ISMONDA's came to acquaint him, that his Lady desir'd he would come immediately to her Apartment, without letting any Person into the Secret of her sending for him. The privacy of this Message gave him no small

Sur-

Surprize, yet not enough to hinder him from returning an Answer full of Complaisance and Obedience. But tho he made all imaginable haste in dressing and preparing himself to wait on her, the same Page came from her a second time, and deliver'd him a Billet, in which he found these Lines.

To MARMILLIO.

‘ **T**HE Secrecy which I design’d to
 ‘ entertain you with this Morning, is
 ‘ prevented, by the unexpected coming in of
 ‘ a Lady; I would have you, therefore,
 ‘ wait an Hour or two in your own Lodg-
 ‘ ings for the return of my Page, who I
 ‘ will send to conduct you when it is a
 ‘ proper time. I have Business of the ut-
 ‘ most consequence to impart to you, and
 ‘ flatter myself that you will not think it
 ‘ too great a trouble to be made the Con-
 ‘ fidant of her, who, on all occasions,
 ‘ will be ready to retaliate the Obliga-
 ‘ tion.’

ISMONDA.

There was something in this Impatiency, which not all the Cunning of MARMILLIO could enable him to fathom; he paus’d a while upon it, but was oblig’d to attend the Gratification of his high-raisd Curiosity.

Curiosity, till he should receive it from her Mouth : but bethinking himself that she had given herself the pains of putting Pen to Paper, it might be expected he should reply in the same manner ; he sat down to his Escritore, and writ her the following Answer.

To the most Excellent ISMONDA.

Madam,
 ‘ **T**HE Honour of your Commands is
 ‘ of so high a nature, that ’tis im-
 ‘ possible for the Person who receives it to
 ‘ testify his just Sensibility any otherwise,
 ‘ than by an humble Obedience, and most
 ‘ strict Integrity. If there are Qualifica-
 ‘ tions which may render me in any de-
 ‘ gree worthy of your Confidence, depend
 ‘ on finding both in

Your Devoted Servant,

MARMILLIO.

Having dispatch’d the Page with this, he waited not long before that Emiffary came back, to let him know the Coast was clear, and that his Lady expected him. It was with a Pleasure infinitely more than the Vexation of his present Circumstances seem’d to allow of, that he obey’d this Sum-

F

mons ;

mons; and indeed one would think he had that moment been inspired with the Spirit of Prophecy, and had foreknown the Good which this Adventure brought him, he engaged in it with so much Readiness and Alacrity.

As soon as he came into the presence of ISMONDA, You wonder, MARMILLIO, *said she, with the most obliging Smile*, at the Speed and Privacy with which I entreated this Visit might be accompany'd; but the Business I have to communicate, will immediately ease you of it:—it being of too much consequence to my Glory, my Interest, and my Peace of Mind, either to be delay'd, or expos'd to the Knowledge of any one but him, whose Advice I depend on for Relief.

Blessings, Madam, such as you vouchsafe to shower upon me, *answer'd he*, cannot be received without a mixture of Surprize and Joy: The *one* must naturally flow from the Discovery that a Being so superlatively exalted in all that's excellent, as is ISMONDA, above what is ordinarily to be found in Humanity, should stand in need of any Assistance, but what she might find in her own Genius; and the *other*, from the Glory of being chose out from the less *happy*, tho perhaps more *deserving* millions of Mankind, for so great a Trust. 'Tis true, indeed, *continued he*, that when the Mind

is over-burthened with any secret Discontent, a faithful Confidant affords some ease: if therefore it be possible you should be thus oppress'd, behold the Man who would chuse Death rather than Infidelity, Ingratitude, or Disobedience.

The good Opinion I have of you, *resum'd she, interrupting him*, renders these Professions needless; I already believe you possess'd of every thing I would wish to find in the Man of whom I would make a Friend:—nor will I listen to any further Asseverations—the time is too precious to be thrown away in idle Talk, and may much better be employ'd in that Advice and Consolation I expect from you.—Oh! MARMILLIO, (*pursued she, with a Sigh as if her Heart were bursting, and which, in spite of her Efforts to restrain them, forc'd some Tears from her Eyes*) I fear I am undone.—The Heart which to preserve I have forfeited my Honour, and that Duty which by the Laws of Heaven and Earth I owe ADRASTUS, forsook my native Country, forgot my nearest Friends, and abandon'd every thing which ought to have been dear, I doubt is lost, estrang'd for ever from me.—Ruin'd at once both in my Love and Pride, the World contains not so forlorn a Wretch, as she who lately was the envy'd, fortunate ISMONDA.

Here the long-smother'd Passions of her Soul rose with too much Violence to be repell'd; again she sigh'd, again she wept, but was deny'd the use of Speech. The Astonishment of MARMILLIO at this strange Discourse, had the same Effect on him, as Rage and Grief had work'd on her; and as she was for the present incapable of proceeding in the Relation she was about to make, so was he of replying to what she had said. This dumb Scene lasted for some moments, both of them endeavouring, but in vain, to break it. MARMILLIO was the first who had that power, and he made use of it to entreat her to reveal at once the cause of her Disquiet, protesting to her that nothing in him should be wanting for the discovery of the Truth, and restoring her to her former Tranquillity.

Oh! *said she*, 'tis too plain that I have lost the Empire I once possess'd over the Heart of THEODORE; nor are you, MARMILLIO, without your share of the Disgrace. That artful Sycophant ARBANES, has found the means to triumph over both of us; he now engrosses the Friendship of that ungrateful Prince, and his Niece EURIDICE, his more fond Affections. MARMILLIO is now no more than a discarded Favourite, ISMONDA a forsaken Mistress.—Much do I wonder that the Change has
 escaped

escaped your notice, when every day the perjur'd THEODORE retires himself from publick View, and passes whole Hours together with his new Choice, and her designing Uncle. Last night my Woman LYSETTA, the only one of all my Train whom I ever made the Confidante of my Affection for this ungrateful Man, inform'd me of my Misfortune, having learn'd the Secret from one that waits upon EURIDICE, and is by that triumphant Rival entrusted with the Affair.

She spoke no more, expecting his Reply ; which, after a little pause, he gave her in these terms: That in a late Suit, *said he*, which I too rashly mov'd, I gain'd the displeasure of my Prince, I am but too sensible ; but cannot think the Royal THEODORE so much a Foe to his own Happiness, as to forfeit his Title to ISMONDA's Heart : ISMONDA, of whom I have heard him speak with Praises, such as can be only due to Heaven and her.—Most sure I am, you are in this deceiv'd ; I cannot think the united Charms of your whole Sex could make him blind to yours, much less the faint and sickly Beauties of the vain EURIDICE have the power to move him.—He would have added something more, had he not been prevented by ISMONDA, who hastily interrupted him with these Words : You are too loyal, MARMILLIO, *cry'd she*,

and too zealous for the Vindication of a Prince, who no longer is worthy of the respect you bear him.——What I have told you, is but too sad a Truth: it is not only to testify his ill Humour to you, that he affects a Kindness for your known Enemy ARBANES; Love also has a share in the Change of his Behaviour.——Unwilling to believe LYSETTA'S Story without further Confirmation, I went immediately to the House of curs'd ARBANES; where, as I enter'd, I saw the Guards of THEODORE, and found the inconstant Prince seated so near EURIDICE, that he with ease might whisper in her Ear those Vows of Passion he so well knows to make, and by which ISMONDA was at first betray'd, to think, that to reward such Love, was glorious Ruin——He started at the sight of me, and endeavour'd to conceal the Confusion he was in, under the pretence of a sudden Head-ach, and soon after took his leave. I stay'd not long, overwhelm'd with Rage and Jealousy, resolving at my return to pour forth all the Anguish of my Soul in the most keen Reproaches, but was in that, as in all else, disappointed; some Ambassadors being arriv'd from *Anatolia*, demanded private Audience of him, and Business of the State took up all his Hours till midnight; at which time I was engag'd about the Princess, and have not yet had opportunity

tunity to execute my Purpose. I am glad of it, *said* MARMILLIO. How! *cry'd she*, what mean you? That you could not, *reply'd he*, unless grown quite indifferent, you no longer wish the continuance of his Affections, have done any thing more effectual for the loss of them, than such a Behaviour would have been.

Jealousy is a Passion which ought not to be entertain'd by Lovers, but while they are in a state of Expectation; before Enjoyment, it denotes an ardent and violent Affection, and to whatever Extremes it may transport the Person in whose Breast 'tis harbour'd, they ought to be forgiven, nay, taken kindly; but afterwards, tho' the Motives are the same, yet it becomes tiresome, uneasy, and disobliging, and discovers an ill Opinion of the belov'd Object. Consider, Madam, *continu'd he*, that if your Suspicions are just, Reproaches will be of no service to retrieve that Heart which Tenderness could not retain; but, if otherwise, may with reason give Offence, and if persisted in, become fatal to the very Purpose their aim is to accomplish. I cannot deny, *answer'd she*, the truth of these Suggestions, I was myself always of the same opinion, and have wonder'd at the Folly of those Women who I have seen taking these extravagant measures for reclaiming the darling Rover, which never ended but in a total

Breach, and sometimes gave a Pretence for ill Treatment—but, O MARMILLIO! I was not then a Lover, I knew not what it was to feel the Stings of Tenderness abus'd—I then had Reason, but now, alas! have none. Yes, Madam, *resum'd* MARMILLIO, you testify by those very Words, that you have yet enough, would you but exert it—— Besides, permit me, most excellent ISMONDA! to entreat you would a little examine your own Heart, which few, when instigated by Passion, have the power to do; and tell me then if *Pride* has not an equal share with *Love*, in your Resentment. Can it be otherwise? *reply'd she, hastily*: What Woman can endure Neglect even from the Man she hates; much less where rewarded ardent Vows of everlasting Passion have sooth'd her Vanity into an assurance of her Lover's Truth?—— To be forsaken——Heavens! is there a Curse beyond it!—— Besides, my Reputation is here concern'd, the Secret of my Intrigue will be discover'd by its breaking off: that Respect, that tender Friendship which THEODORE has paid me, once chang'd to cold Civility, or Disregard, will put People on an enquiry into the Cause, which easily enough may be discern'd; a sudden Estrangement is an infallible demonstration of a past Amour, and even HYANTHE herself would guess the Truth. 'Tis certain,
said

said he ; and to prevent it, I would thus advise. When next you see the Prince, conceal, if possible, all tokens of your Discontent—Let him not think you jealous ; for if that Passion once break out, tho' in the softest Terms, he will be ever on his guard ; and Caution breeds Disgust, which may in time make him more guilty than you at present think him. By seeming not to suspect, you will keep him ever yours in show, even tho' he ceases to be so in reality ; by this means your Character remains unfully'd, and your Power as great, to the World's eye, as when you first possess'd his fondest Wishes—Nor are these all the Advantages which from such a Behaviour may accrue—suppose some sudden start of Fancy should, for a time, deprive you of his Heart, and lead his wandering Desires to the Enjoyment of another Object, what Method so probable to reclaim him as this I recommend?—In acting thus, you are certain not to err, you infallibly secure your Interest and Reputation by it, and perhaps, also your Lover.—To enable you to pursue it, Madam, *continu'd he*, have still before your Eyes the examples of those Women who have had strength of Resolution to take those Steps, and even in old Age, in the midst of Deformity and Wrinkles, preserv'd their Empire in spite of the opposing Charms of their more young and
lovely

lovely Rivals.——Remember the fam'd Mistress of the late *Armenian* Monarch; was he not the wisest and the greatest King, that, since the first ARSACES, ever ruled in *Asia*? Yet did not this Woman, by her subtilty, maintain a Power over him, superior to what his whole Council, tho' compos'd of the most learned Men the World produc'd, could boast? Did he transact any material Affair without her? Were there any Promotions or Degradings in which she had not a hand? Did he make War or Peace, unasking her Opinion? Did she not with him receive the Embassies of foreign Princes, and according to her Judgment, did he not form his Answers? In fine, she was the sovereign Dictatress of all his Words and Actions.——And pray, by what measures did she preserve this absolute Dominion, but by those I would set down to all who are the Mistresses of Kings? When young, beautiful, and possess'd of Charms untasted, there needed no other attractions to captivate an amorous Heart; but long before her Bloom decay'd, her Power would have diminish'd, had she not maintain'd it by these Means. A Monarch, such as he was, great, witty, lovely, gay, possess'd of every Qualification that can adorn the Hero or the Courtier, could not fail of exciting the most tender Wishes: scarce a Virgin of his Court, but in her Eyes, whenever he approach'd

proach'd her, disclos'd the Languishments of her dissolving Soul; nor was he always insensible or regardless of the Conquests he made. At first, 'twas hard for her, who had been the sole engrosser of his Heart, to endure to share it with another; but soon did her Prudence get the better of this Weakness: she not only forbore to upbraid the Inconstancy she found him guilty of, but also forwarded, as much as was in her power, without seeming to do so, his Amours with as many as he appear'd desirous of engaging. Of all the numerous Charmers who aim'd at the Secret to please him, she alone had the Skill to do it always, because she alone had enough the Command of her own Passions to observe this Rule.

Another Instance of this nature (*contin'd he, perceiving his Discourse made some Impression on her*) the present Age presents us with: The King of *Illyria* has a Mistress, who, by the same Arts, has render'd herself so necessary to his Happiness, that she preserves as absolute an Authority over him, as when in the full pride of glorious Beauty he languish'd for Enjoyment, and reigns more than Queen, triumphant over an injur'd Wife, and slighed Family; who, aw'd by her superior Power, dare but in whispers breathe out their Repinings.

On

On the contrary, *added he*, please but to turn your Eyes on the Effects of Jealousy disclos'd : You are too well acquainted with the Affairs of foreign Courts to need Intelligence from me, how the late King of *Cap-padocia*, by publickly avowing his Suspicions of his new wedded Bride, created in her such an aversion to him as never could be remov'd. The Animosities between them were fatal to his Peace ; and, as 'tis thought, his Life ; for he expir'd soon after without any visible Disease. You must also know, and, I believe, are enough a Friend to *Dalmatia*, to lament the Misfortunes which the Prince of it sustains through this destructive Passion. Had the fair Partner of his Bed and Throne, to her other excellent Qualifications, added Patience, how flourishing a Monarchy might that have been ? Had she despis'd or check'd the Persons, who, perhaps, envious of her Happiness, brought her the News of a criminal Conversation between her Husband, and the Wife of a certain Nobleman of his Court, 'tis probable the Amour would soon have known a period, and she been more endear'd than ever, by this Indulgence to' the Prince's Affections : but instead of that, she flies out into Extravagancies unbecoming of her Rank, the Duty of a Wife, or the common Interest of them both. ——— They part Houses, have different Parties, they omit nothing which may ex-

expose each other: the Friends on both sides finding their Endeavours vain to reconcile them, will no longer take part with either.—— The Subjects following the Example of their Sovereigns, run into Factions——the Foes of Monarchy make their own use of these Disorders——Confusion reigns at home, and foreign Enemies take this opportunity of compassing Designs, which else they never would have form'd.

But what occasion for me to draw Inferences from distant Examples, ISMONDA is herself a shining one, that there are Women who can resist this Foible of the Sex. You, who to secure the Heart of THEODORE, could consent, nay, oblige him to marry with another; can, whenever you please to exert your Resolution, look down only with Contempt on the little Amusements with which he may divert himself elsewhere.——Be satisfied, that not EURIDICE, were she endued with all the Charms which Nature ever gave to Woman, wanting those you are possess'd of, can ever have the power to fix him in a serious Engagement with her.——Often has he *liked*, but I, who from our Childhood have till now been acquainted with his most secret Thoughts, ne'er knew he *loved*, till bright ISMONDA, with unequal Merit, taught him what that Passion was: nor do I think, and from my Soul I speak it, the Tenderneſs
of

of his Affection ever can be lessen'd, whatever the Ardours of it, by an unrestrain'd Possession, may.

Aye, there's the point, *cry'd* ISMONDA; that is indeed the nature of your ungrateful Sex; 'tis Difficulty that endears Enjoyment, and keeps Desire awake: Suspence alone secures the Lover's Heart, for when we own we love, we are sure to lose him.

As she was proceeding, one of her Women came in to inform her, that the *Anatolian* Ambassadors having had audience of the Prince and Princess, desir'd her leave to wait on her, having brought Letters from ADRASTUS, and some of her near Kindred. Tho' she had a great desire to continue the Conversation she was upon, yet there was so absolute a Necessity, that she should receive this Visit, that she was obliged to dismiss him, with an Entreaty that he would return the same Evening, and finish the Argument he had begun; which he having promis'd, left her to prepare herself for the Reception of her expected Guests, and retir'd to his own Apartment to meditate on this Adventure, and consult with himself how to make the best use of it. The Trust which ISMONDA reposed in him, assured him of her Favour; but if she herself was in her decline, as she began to imagine, he consider'd her Friendship would be of little service; he therefore thought the wisest Method

thod he could chuse, would be to take the Opportunity her Confidence had given him of making his Court to THEODORE, and by revealing to him all she had discover'd of her Jealousy, and proceeding to advise her, for the future, as he should direct, lay him under the Necessity of a Reconciliation with him. After having thoroughly debated all the Reasons, which presented themselves for or against acting in this manner, he found none so substantial, as those which encouraged him in it. Being therefore come to a Resolution, all the difficulty lay in speaking to the Prince in private; he, since the late dispute between them, having carefully avoided him: but that he soon found means to get over; he wrote a little Billet, which it was easy for him to deliver to him, tho' in the presence of all the World, because it was usual for all Petitions and Addresses to pass through his hands. The Contents of what he wrote, were as follows.

*To Prince THEODORE, Sovereign of
Caramania.*

Royal Sir,

‘ **T**HO’ to have offended you, has de-
 ‘ prived me of all for which I va-
 ‘ lued Life, yet durst I not presume to ut-
 ‘ ter my Complaints, till some happy op-
 ‘ portunity

‘ opportunity should arrive, to give me the
 ‘ means of testifying, that whatever Faults
 ‘ Rashness or Inadvertency might commit,
 ‘ you have not in the world a Subject
 ‘ more devoted to your Interest. The
 ‘ wish’d-for Moment is mine; I have that
 ‘ to impart to you which is of the utmost
 ‘ consequence, both to your Pleasures
 ‘ and domestick Peace, and humbly beg
 ‘ the favour of a private Audience some
 ‘ time this day :—— The Affair is of a
 ‘ nature too delicate to brook delay; and
 ‘ if neglected, may involve you in many
 ‘ Difficulties, and take from me the power
 ‘ of acquiring that Glory which is the sole
 ‘ Aim of my Ambition, that of proving
 ‘ myself

My Royal Master’s

Most Humble, most Faithful,
 and most Obedient Subject,
 and Servant ever,

MARMILLIO.

It was now about the time in which the
 Prince receiv’d the Lords who attended his
 Levée; and having finish’d his short Epistle,
 he went to the Drawing-room, where he
 gave it publicly into his Hand, entreating
 he would immediately peruse it, for it
 contain’d some Matters of Importance.
 These

These Words made the Prince look earnestly on the Superscription, and knowing it to be MARMILLIO's own writing, he retired from the Company to a Window, where, having examined the Contents, he made a sign for him to approach; and as soon as he was near enough to be heard by him, Attend me in the Orange-Grove behind the Palace Garden, *said he*, I will dispatch these, and instantly be with you. He turn'd from him in uttering these Words, and the other making a low Bow, left the Room, and hasted to the Place appointed; where he remain'd not long, before the Prince appear'd: and tho' there was not that open Freedom in his Countenance, with which he had been accustomed to accost this favourite Promoter of his Pleasures, yet there was so great an Abatement of the Severity which lately had sat on it towards him, that he had reason to hope what he had to communicate, would entirely re-establish him in his former good Opinion and Confidence. I hope, MARMILLIO, *said he*, it is not to renew the Subject of our last private Conference, that you desired this meeting; for assure yourself, if it be, I shall answer you in no other terms than before, nor indeed is it in my power to do it. I should be more unworthy than you think me, my Royal Lord, *answer'd the other*, if I could presume so far as to

minge my little Interests with yours, pretend to call an Affair of mine, though it were of Life and Death, of consequence to your Peace, as I inform'd you this is which I would now impart.— But not to detain your Highness in suspense, be pleased to read this Summons, which early this morning I received.— In speaking these words, he presented him with the Billet brought him by ISMONDA's Page, which, when the Prince had look'd over with all imaginable demonstrations of Surprise, he proceeded to inform him all that had pass'd between them in her Apartment, not forgetting the least particular of the Discontent he found her in, or the Arguments he had made use of to dissipate it. He acquainted him also how their Conversation was interrupted by the Ambassadors; and that he was engaged to return to her that Evening. And having concluded his Narration, putting one knee to the ground, intreated him he would once more honour him with his Commands in this Affair.

It was with all possible Artifice, and Self-extolment, couch'd under the disguise of Humility, that he related this Story; but half the pains he took, would have sufficed: It contain'd, indeed, a matter of importance much greater than he himself imagin'd; the Prince, tho' he could not be called any other than constant to ISMONDA, because he never

ver ceased to love her, and prefer her to her whole Sex beside, was yet the most changing Man in his Amours that ever was. In spite of the fixed Affection with which he regarded this Mistress of his *Soul*, he must sometimes devote his *Body* at other Shrines. He could not live without his Gallantries ; and Curiosity frequently supplied the room of liking, and led him to the ruin of many a believing Fair. EURIDICE was of that number : the same wild and unstable Fires, which had seduced LUTETIA, had an equal effect on her ; both had alike been tempted ; both had alike consented to his Wishes ; and both, with over-fondness, and a too easy yielding, became immediately the Objects of his Satire and Contempt. The fears he was in of ISMONDA making a discovery of his Crime, infinitely exceeded the pleasure he found in committing it ; and the service MARMILLIO had done to him, in easing him of the Apprehensions he had labour'd under on LUTETIA's account, made him wish for such another Friend on that of EURIDICE ; who, presuming on the tender things he said to her, while soliciting her Love, took a sort of privilege of following him from place to place, and persecuting him with incessant declarations of a Passion which he no longer wish'd to inspire. For this reason he was extremely glad of a Pretence, without any injury to his Dignity, by submitting

to a Subject, of being reconciled to MARMILLIO : for tho' he knew he could not rid him of the impertinent Tenderneſs of EURIDICE, and the continual Dangers which her Fondneſs involv'd him in, of the Affair between them being discover'd, by taking on himſelf the Character of her Lover, as he had done in the ſame Caſe with LUTETIA, by reaſon of his enmity with ARBANES; yet he doubted not but his ſubtile-working Wit, and ready Invention, would find out ſome Expedient alſo in this Exigence, as it had done in others. When firſt he read the Letter ISMONDA had writ to him, and by the beginning of his diſcourſe, discover'd her but too juſt Suſpicions of EURIDICE, his ſtill enamour'd Heart heaved with tumultuous Beatings; her Grief and her Reſentment gave him Pangs, which ſince the full enjoyment of her Charms had left Deſpair no room, he had never felt. Nor was he without fear that MARMILLIO, to revenge the Coldneſs with which he had of late been treated by him, might have ſaid ſomething to have increaſed that Lady's Jealouſy; but when theſe Doubts were cleared, and he was convinced by many Oaths and Imprecations of the ſervice he had done him, in arguing with her on ſo nice a Theme, he repented there had ever been a Breach between them, and omitted nothing which might teſtify the ſenſe he had of his Fidelity,

lity, and steady Adherence to his Interest. After a thousand demonstrations of an eternal Friendship on the one side, and Loyalty on the other, the new-restored Favourite reminded him, that he knew not how soon he might be sent for by ISMONDA, and that it was therefore time they should resolve in what manner to proceed. If, *said he*, tir'd and grown weary with a long and uninterrupted series of possession, you wish the absence of ISMONDA, I believe it easy for me, in the present struggles of her Soul, to turn the Scale wholly on the side of Resentment, and talk her into a resolution of quitting *Caramania* for ever. Oh, no, *replied the Prince*, rather do all that's in your power to stay her : In spite of the little Infidelities I have been guilty of to her, I cannot think of parting with her. The faint Joys which other Beauties yield, but more indear the rapturous Image of her power of charming. Still in my Heart she reigns unrivall'd and supreme ; and sooner would I renounce my Life, than that more precious Treasure, my only lov'd ISMONDA.

He then proceeded to relate to him his Affair with EURIDICE ; and how uneasy he was to get rid of a Passion he had not intended should arrive at any greater heights than would just influence her to the gratification of a transient Desire, it being only such he felt for her. But long he dwelt not

on this Theme ; a nearer and more poignant Vexation took up the greatest part of his thoughts : He told him, that the Lords of *Anatolia*, sent from that King in Embassy to him, had been employ'd by *ADRASTUS* to solicit the return of his Wife ; that they last Night had obtained leave of the Princess for her departure ; and that there remained nothing now but her own consent for her removal. — Therefore, to prevent this Journey, exert, *said he*, my dear *MARMILLIO*, your utmost Wit and Eloquence ; for, since suspected by her in a Case where I am, alas ! too guilty, I dare not meet the just upbraidings of her angry Eyes, till you have sooth'd her Soul into a Calm of full Assurance of my Love and Truth. Depend upon my Zeal, *answer'd he*, nor doubt, my Lord, but that those Arts which hitherto have been crowned with success, when employ'd for your Service, will not be less effectual than before. But, Royal *THEODORE*, *pursued he*, after a little pause, as our late estrangement from that Familiarity with which you used to honour me, has been the sole occasion of her confiding in the truth of what I shall relate in this Affair ; the news of a sudden Reconciliation may render all I say suspected, and with reason give her some Apprehensions that I have betray'd her to you. — I think it then better for your purpose, that I conceal

ceal my happy Restoration to your Favour, and that you persist to treat me for some ensuing Days in the same manner, as first induced her to imagine that any unkindness of my Prince could oblige me to reveal aught to his prejudice.

THEODORE extremely approved of this Advice, not only for the Reasons MARMILLIO urged, but also that too sudden a Turn might alarm the Jealousy of ARBANES and EURIDICE, and put them on some measures, which would unravel the Mystery it was so much the interest of that Prince to conceal, both from HYANTHE and ISMONDA. Every thing being thus concluded on between them, MARMILLIO took his leave, and return'd to his Lodgings, expecting a second Summons from ISMONDA.

It was near Evening before that Lady sent to him, and at his return he found her in a disorder which it is impossible to represent. As soon as he enter'd the Closet, where for the sake of privacy she receiv'd him, Oh, MARMILLIO, *said she*, the perjured THEODORE may now bear his fictitious Vows to as many as his inconstant Wishes aim to undo, unfearing the Reproaches of ISMONDA.—ADRASTUS will no longer live without me.—The Princess has consented I shall return to *Anatolia* with the Lords employed in Embassy from thence ; nor can the love which still my

Soul avows for your ungrateful Prince, furnish me with a Pretence to stay. — See here, *pursued she, plucking a Letter out of her Pocket, and giving it him to read*, see here, what the injured, yet ever faithful, ever tender ADRASTUS writes. MARMILIO replied no otherwise than by doing as he was desired; and unfolding the Paper, he found in it these Lines:

To my For-ever-lov'd, but most Unkind
ISMONDA.

‘ FAIN would I, my cruel Dear! ac-
 ‘ cuse you of injustice to the fond Pas-
 ‘ sion with which I ever have regarded you;
 ‘ and of your little conformity to those
 ‘ Rules by which all who yield to become
 ‘ Wives, ought to think themselves bound:
 ‘ But, alas! in spite of that Authority which
 ‘ Marriage gives me over you, my Heart is
 ‘ too much your Slave, to permit me to
 ‘ make use of any other Arguments than
 ‘ such as flow from humble Love. — Yet
 ‘ have I, O ISMONDA! have I deserved this
 ‘ Usage from you? — Or, could I, till sad
 ‘ Experience convinced me, have believed
 ‘ you would thus long have left me to mourn
 ‘ your unkind absence in a widow’d State?
 ‘ Remember, my everlasting Charmer, call
 ‘ back in Idea the past Endearments of our
 ‘ mutual Transports; and then reflect, if
 ‘ from

' from the blissful moment which gave thee
 ' first to my desiring Arms, I have done
 ' aught should make thee cold, neglectful,
 ' or in the least deviate from thy former
 ' Tendernefs. — In one of your Letters you
 ' seem to tax me with what I have but too
 ' much reason to reproach you, want of
 ' Uneasiness in this Separation. *Were it not*
 ' *so, say you, I should before this time have*
 ' *found a Pretence for coming to Carama-*
 ' *nia :* How unjust is this Assertion, let your
 ' own Heart be judge. Well do you know
 ' the arbitrary Disposition of our Monarch;
 ' and that the Employments I have under
 ' him will not suffer me to quit his Palace
 ' even for a Day, without permission from
 ' himself. Heaven, and all here are witnesses
 ' what Intercessions I made to be one of the
 ' Persons fix'd on for this Embassy, but had
 ' no other Answer to my repeated Importu-
 ' nities, than this; *That if my fond Affe-*
 ' *ction for a Wife who had deserted me,*
 ' *was more valuable than his Service, I*
 ' *might in Banishment enjoy that Blessing,*
 ' *for never more must I expect to return*
 ' *to Anatolia.* What canst thou now ob-
 ' ject? What Reasons find which can with-
 ' hold thee from my longing Arms? The
 ' Princess is too good to aim at parting
 ' those whom sacred Vows have join'd; and
 ' did not the sublimest Passion actuate my
 ' self in that behalf, I should believe some
 ' other

' other and more powerful Motive than her
 ' Friendship, induced thee to forsake a Hus-
 ' band whose very Life is bound up in thee.
 ' Some busy Whisperers would make me
 ' more unhappy than I am by such Sug-
 ' gestions ; but be assured, I slight them,
 ' nor can entertain one thought in prejudice
 ' of my ISMONDA's Honour. It is not, how-
 ' ever, in my power, to suppress the Talk
 ' of others.—Haste then to confute them by
 ' thy immediate Presence, and look the
 ' sharp-ey'd Monster, *Slander*, dead! ——
 ' Thy own *Reputation*, as well as my *Love*,
 ' demands thee ; both of them once were
 ' dear, and I have hope thou art not chan-
 ' ged in all, and that the return of the Am-
 ' bassadors will bring thee also to the Em-
 ' braces of him, who with the name of Hus-
 ' band joins that of thy Lover and thy Ado-
 ' rer,

A D R A S T U S.

Now, MARMILLIO, *said she*, (as soon as he
 had done reading) what Answer can I make ?
 Or how refuse the tender Pressures of this
 too indulgent Husband ?—— Were THE-
 ODORE all that my fond Soul could wish,
 adorn'd with every Perfection of the Mind,
 as well as the Body, I must be compell'd to
 leave him ; and he does well, by the Proofs
 he gives me of his Inconstancy, to wean my
 Affections from their former Ardency, and
 make

make the Separation less terrible to be borne. Ah Madam ! *reply'd he*, before you resolve on quitting *Caramania*, consider well if you are able to sustain the Pangs of an eternal Absence from the Man you love ; and who, in spite of the disregard with which of late he causelessly has treated me, I must confess, I think deserving of it. Deceive not yourself, I beg you, by an Imagination that he is less dear to you, because he appears, at present, more unworthy than you once believ'd.——Were he indeed as ingrateful as you now suspect him, which yet I cannot think, 'twou'd cost you many bitter Agonies e'er you extinguish'd a Passion so well establish'd in your Soul. Should I then stay, *interrupted she*, till bare-fac'd Contempt, and open Scorn shall drive me hence ?——till publick ill usage shall compel me to be gone, and demonstrate, indeed, that not HYANTHE, but her perfidious Husband, influenc'd my coming hither, and now enforces my departure ?——No, if I neglect this opportunity all-bounteous Heaven affords of restoring myself to Honour and to Fame, justly should I desire to be a Wretch, whose only hope is to excite Compassion. There was so much reason in what she said, that had it not been utter'd with a warmth which denoted a greater share of Resentment than Resolution, MARMILLIO would have entertain'd

tain'd but little expectation of Success : but he was too well acquainted with human Nature, not to know that nothing violent is of long continuance, and of all the Passions that invade the Mind, none so short-liv'd as Rage ; because none is so painful to be borne, and were it to continue, must convert to Madness. He therefore aim'd not to oppose it, and by seeming not to take the part of THEODORE, he more effectually did so, than if he had made the most solemn asseverations of his believ'd Integrity ; and when, by this Artifice, he found the late flames of Indignation in her pretty well abated, Let not false Fortitude beguile you, Madam, *said he*, the Ills which threaten you in *Caramania* are but in Imagination, and are scarce possible ever to happen in reality ; but in returning to *Anatolia*, you run to certain Misery, the worst of Woes, that of loath'd Embraces, and the eternal Presence of the Man you hate ; for there's no medium in conjugal Affection. In *Caramania*, you but fear the Loss of THEODORE ; in *Anatolia*, you are sure to be depriv'd of him for ever : nay, what is more, depriv'd of him by your own fault. Here, should he prove ungrateful or unkind, your injur'd Soul might vent her Anguish in Reproaches ; but now to leave him, on a bare Suspicion, would throw the weight of it wholly on yourself, and when past remedy,

dy, you'd curse the Rashness by which you are undone.

By these kind of Arguments, that Resolution, in which she had imagin'd herself so well fix'd, began to waver, and before he left her half dispos'd as he could wish, he doubted not but the next Visit that the Prince should make, would entirely perfect what he had made so good a progress in; and to that end, acquainted him immediately with the sum of all the Conversation he had with her. This Day, which was in every thing to be a fortunate one to him, concluded with the News, that the Mother of IRENE being taken dangerously ill, had sent an express for her to come to her Country Seat, at which she was when seiz'd with that Indisposition; and that Lady could not refuse Obedience in so pressing an occasion. By this removal of IRENE's, he had time for Contrivance; the Journey she had to take, was long, and he was not without hope, that before her return, the Prince being now more than ever oblig'd to befriend his Interest, join'd with the Power ISMONDA, of whose Favour he was also certain, had with HYANTHE, would render ineffectual all the Complaints the Brother of that wrong'd Lady should make of his Behaviour.

But in the midst of these Consolatory Reflections, the Idea of ARILLA still fill'd him

him with Disquiets; the difficulty of re-establishing himself in her Affections, enhanced the Value of them, and he languish'd in unspeakable Desires for that, which had it appear'd attainable, he would perhaps have slighted and avoided; so contradictory is the Temper of Mankind, and so much is Ingratitude ingrafted in their very Natures, that it seems inherent to the Sex to shun what comes with ease, and to court Dangers and Inquietudes. The fond, the tender Maid, is sure to meet disdain, while the neglectful or humourous Coquette, receives their most ardent Assiduities. Security is the certain *Recipe* for their Passion; and the only way for the ador'd Object to maintain her Conquest, is to keep her Lover in suspense. MARMILLIO, at least, was of this disposition; and had the most charming Woman Nature ever made, been offer'd to him in exchange for ARILLA, while she continu'd cruel, 'tis probable no Attractions could have withdrawn his Heart, or made any abatement in that excess of Passion with which he now regarded her.

The desire of regaining her Affections, being, at present, the supremest wish of his impatient Soul, he set his whole Wits at work for the accomplishment of it; and tho' he had been before refus'd admittance, went again to visit her: but meeting with the same treatment, entreated, by her Woman,

man, that he might see her, tho' it was but for a moment; saying, he had something of more than ordinary importance to speak to her about, before she took her Journey. On which, the Person to whom he apply'd, return'd for answer, that her Lady had chang'd her Mind, and intended still to stay at Court; that Relation to whose House she had design'd to retire, being about coming to Town herself. To find she staid, and yet had Resolution enough to refuse seeing him but in Places where their mutual attendance render'd it impossible for her to avoid him, and that even there she carefully shunn'd giving him any opportunity of speaking to her, made him know that a Reconciliation with her, would be infinitely more difficult than he could have believ'd it could be, while she continu'd in the way of his Importunities; at last, bethinking himself that as her Cruelty sprung only from her Jealousy of LUTETIA, it was chiefly in the power of LUTETIA herself to undeceive her: he therefore ventur'd to make her the Confidante of his Passion for ARILLA, and the unjust Suspicions that Lady had conceiv'd on her account; and begg'd that she would write a Line or two which might convince her that it was on a different score from that of Love he visited her. LUTETIA look'd on herself as under too many Obligations to him, to deny the
the

the grant of so reasonable a Request: but having obtained this Promise from her, a new Objection rose in his Mind; which was, that, considering what had pass'd between him and ARILLA, it might be too great a shock to her Modesty, to find that her supposed Rival had been made acquainted with the Affair. To remedy this Inconvenience, however, he soon bethought him of an Expedient; which was, that the Letter should be directed to himself. - He communicated his Sentiments to LUTETIA, who agreeing with his Notions, between them they dictated these Lines.

To MARMILLIO.

‘ **T**HOUGH there is not a Possibility
 ‘ of hearing from the dear Engros-
 ‘ ser of my Soul, by any other means than
 ‘ through your generous Care; yet I can-
 ‘ not forbear smiling, to think of how dan-
 ‘ gerous a consequence it may prove to
 ‘ me. — The whole Court gives you
 ‘ to me as a Lover; and as I cannot believe
 ‘ a Man of so much Gallantry can be with-
 ‘ out his Amours, I am in daily Expecta-
 ‘ tions of finding the Effects of Jealousy
 ‘ from some outrageous and disgusted He-
 ‘ roine. — If conscious of a Passion for
 ‘ any darling Fair, for Heaven’s sake unde-
 ‘ ceive her; I give you leave to call me
 ‘ ugly,

‘ ugly, ill-shaped, unbred, and every thing
 ‘ that is disagreeable ; nor will be offend-
 ‘ ed at whatever Rudeness you treat me
 ‘ with, even to my face, before her, rather
 ‘ than expose me to her Censures, or your-
 ‘ self to her Resentment, for the sake of
 ‘ her who is already but too much obliged
 ‘ to you.

LUTETIA.

There was something so natural in the turn of this Billet, that MARMILLIO was half persuaded it would work the Effect he aim’d at ; and as soon as it was finished, took his leave of LUTETIA, and retir’d to his own Apartment, to enclose it to ARILLA : In the Cover he wrote in this manner,

*To my Ever-Ador’d, but Causelessly
 Offended ARILLA.*

‘ **T**HE most guilty Criminal that ever
 ‘ incur’d the Censure of the Law,
 ‘ is allow’d to plead before his Doom is
 ‘ pass’d ; but ARILLA more severe, thinks
 ‘ it enough to let me know of what I am
 ‘ accus’d, not gives me liberty to make my
 ‘ Defence.—Oh ! how unjust is this !—
 ‘ Were there any ground for your Suspi-
 ‘ cions, were it possible for me to think,
 ‘ after the Enjoyment of your Charms, an-
 ‘ other Woman worth my Regard, that

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‘ which

' which caus'd my Ingratitude and Incon-
 ' stancy, would influence my Indifference
 ' also; your Resentment would have fail'd
 ' to work the Effect it has done on my
 ' too tender Heart; my restless Days, and
 ' sleepless Nights, the unnumber'd Agonies
 ' of my tormented Thoughts, would not
 ' have reproach'd the Cruelty of ARILLA,
 ' nor should I have bethought me of send-
 ' ing this undeniable Evidence of my In-
 ' nocence. I need not tell you, that the
 ' Author of it is belov'd by my most par-
 ' ticular and intimate Friend, the Contents
 ' will let you know as much; but when
 ' you allow a Visit from me, as surely now
 ' you will, I shall inform you how, being
 ' by the Severity of an avaritious Parent de-
 ' ny'd the publick Gratification of his Wishes
 ' in marrying with LUTETIA, he is com-
 ' pell'd to content himself with a secret
 ' Correspondence with her. I am the only
 ' Person entrusted with the Affair, nor can
 ' they, but thro' my means, or see each
 ' other, or receive a Letter. This, my un-
 ' kind ARILLA, has occasion'd those fre-
 ' quent Visits and Whisperings which have
 ' been observ'd between us, and which has
 ' given me the reputation of her Lover.
 ' —It now remains that I, in my turn,
 ' upbraid your want of Tenderneſs, and
 ' Faith in those sincere Professions of eter-
 ' nal and unchangeable Affection, which I
 ' have

' have made you ; but that I will defer till
 ' the blest'd Hour of meeting, which, that
 ' you may in some measure repair the In-
 ' jury you have done me, you must appoint
 ' with speed.——Then, if it be possible
 ' for me to retain in your dear Society the
 ' least Remains of aught but Love and Joy,
 ' will I chide the Injustice you have been
 ' guilty of, to

Your Passionately Tender

and ever faithfully Devoted

MARMILLIO.

The Superfcription of this little Packet
 he caus'd to be written by his *Valet de*
Chambre, having the Experience that no-
 thing on which his own Character appear'd,
 would be received ; and having carefully
 seal'd it up, sent it by a Person who was
 entirely a Stranger both to her and her Ser-
 vants, to be left at her Apartment ; not
 doubting but when she should, by the
 strangeness of the hand, be betray'd to o-
 pen it, the very sight of LUTETIA's Name
 to the enclosed, would excite her Curiosity
 to read it ; and the Satisfaction of that
 Curiosity, so thoroughly convince her of the
 Error she had been in, that she would not fear
 to confess it in an immediate Answer.

He had but just dispatch'd his Emissary,
 when a Gentleman belonging to THEODORE

came to let him know the Prince was in his Closet alone, and commanded his attendance: His Mind being now much more at ease, concerning his Affair with ARILLA, than it had been for many days, he was the better capacitated to look after those of another; not in the least imagining, but that the Business on which he was now sent for, was either to prosecute the Deception he had already so successfully carry'd on with ISMONDA and LUTETIA, or forward his Attempts on some new Beauty.

But how agreeably was he surpriz'd, when he found his Conjectures had deceived him; and that the Prince, after having receiv'd him with a most obliging Smile, and made him sit down by him, began in this manner! The Services you have done me, MARMILLIO, *said he*, are too great not to deserve my utmost Acknowledgments: Your Prudence has entirely eas'd me of those Apprehensions I was continually involv'd in, lest the extravagant Fondness of LUTETIA should expose me to the Jealousy of both HYANTHE and ISMONDA, and I can never too gratefully consider of what advantage your Advice to the latter of these Ladies has been to me; what you said to her, has made so deep an Impression in my favour, that she is now only at a loss for some Excuse, to avoid going with the Ambassadors to *Anatolia*; and that I doubt not but
your

your Wit and Invention may supply her with, before the time arrives which is allotted for their Departure.——But Thanks is a poor return for Fidelity such as yours, especially from a Sovereign, in whose power you may believe it is, to confer a more substantial Recompence.——I am not without a just Sensibility of Favours done me, tho' I do not always make show of it ; and Fortune now seems to join in my good Wishes, and gives me an opportunity of proving, that it was not through Ingratitude that I deny'd MARMILLIO the Request he made me on IRENE's score.——Rise, *pursued he, perceiving he was about to prostrate himself at his feet ;* I will have no Submissions, 'tis sufficient that I know you faithful to your Trust, obedient to my Commands, and zealous for my Interest and Happiness. To the purpose therefore for which I sent : DORASPE, the Brother of that Lady, since his return to *Caramania*, is grown enamour'd of EURIDICE, and solicits her Affection on honourable Terms. ARBANES this day acquainted me with the Offers he had made to her ; and guessing at the reason of my late frequent Visits at his House, told me, that no Consideration of the Interest this Match would be to his Family, should oblige him to give his Consent to it, till I had yielded mine. A Thought immediately struck into my head,

that the Doatage of my unoffending Rival, might be of the highest service to my Friend; and after pausing a little on the matter, I told him, that I could by no means be content that EURIDICE should thus dispose herself; but upon one Condition, which was this, that DORASPE should, at the same time, give IRENE to his Son the young ERNESTUS.

I had scarce pronounced the Words, when he reply'd, Alas! my Prince, the rich, the haughty DORASPE would disdain the Proposition, my Son has neither an Estate nor Birth proportionable to that of IRENE. 'Tis true, *resumed I, gravely*, but his own Merit, and my Favour, may make up that Deficiency; nor will it be more strange to those that hear it, that IRENE should marry with the Son of ARBANES, than that DORASPE should become the Bridegroom of EURIDICE, a Maid as far beneath him in the Qualifications you mention, as ERNESTUS to IRENE. — Besides, *added I, seeing him strangely surpriz'd at my starting so unexpected a Proposal*, besides the Welfare of your Family, I have other Reasons to desire this may be brought about; your mortal Enemy, and the Man I hate, has long solicited IRENE, and, if I may speak my thoughts, not without Success: MARMILLIO, I mean, *said I*, has often boasted, that at the return of DORASPE to

Cara-

Caramania, his Marriage with his Sister would be solemniz'd. This had the Effect I wish'd, the old Man presently grew outrageous at the thoughts of mingling his Family with yours ; and encourag'd by the Displeasure I feign'd to have conceiv'd against you, utter'd all that implacable Malice could invent. I listen'd to him with Patience, well knowing, that in this the more I appear'd your Foe, the more I prov'd my self your Friend ; till tired with railing, I sent him to discourse the Matter with DORASPE.

How much, my Royal Lord, *said* MARMILLIO, I am indebted to your generous Care, so far beyond the utmost of my Deservings, words would but faintly represent ; yet cannot I imagine that in this, even your good Wishes ever avail me more than the knowledge. I am honour'd with them ; DORASPE never will consent to give IRENE to ERNESTUS's Bed, or if he would, she sooner would chuse death. You know not, *reply'd the Prince*, how far a fond Affection may transport the one, or Resentment the other : I am told DORASPE doats with so blind a Passion on EURIDICE, that to obtain her he would scruple nothing ; then as for IRENE, you know her Fortune, by her dead Father's Will, is absolutely in the disposal of this Brother : 'tis not her Interest to disoblige him, which, join'd to your Un-

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kindness

kindness and Neglect, may prompt her in Revenge to you, and Complaisance to DORASPE, to marry with your Enemy.—

Add to this, ERNESTUS is young, gay, agreeable in his Person, and every way qualify'd to please the Fair—but shou'd all these Motives fail, should IRENE be less a Woman than I think her, or DORASPE less enamour'd than I am inform'd he is, still my pretended hatred to you gives me an excuse for putting a stop to your Alliance with a Family so illustrious and wealthy as is that of his——'Tis therefore for our mutual Satisfaction to persist in this counterfeited Variance, till we see how our Interests are link'd. MARMILLIO, *continued he, taking him by the Hand*, I, by this fortunate Disimulation, have the means of ridding you of a Mistress you no longer have any Affection for; you, of preserving for me the only Woman I ever did, or can adore.

Some other Discourses, much to the same purpose as these already related, having past between them, MARMILLIO withdrew, neither of them judging it proper they should be long together, lest it should be discover'd to the ruin of that Scheme, both of them promis'd themselves to find so much to the advantage of their Designs. Every thing necessary for each other to know at present, having been talk'd over, they agreed to wear the most distant Looks imaginable

ginable in publick, and to meet as seldom as could be avoided, in the carrying on their Stratagems, even in private; the Cabinets of Princes being generally full of Eyes, which are also too often attended with Tongues.

THEODORE, now zealous for the Interest of this Favourite, forgot nothing of the Promise he had made him, and the first time he saw the Brother of IRENE, accosted him in these Terms. DORASPE, *said he*, your long absence from *Caramania* may, perhaps, make you ignorant of many things which have past here of late: at your departure, MARMILLIO was a Person I very much esteem'd; but since that, he has been guilty of Imprudences which have alter'd the Sentiments I had of him. I scarce believe any will have so little Complaisance to the Will of their Sovereign, as to contribute to the Promotion of a Man I am resolv'd to depress——I hope, therefore, that there is nothing in the Report, that you intend to add to the too great Possessions he is already Master of, by giving him your Sister IRENE, and a large Dowry in Marriage with her. It would be neither conformable to her Interest, or the Duty of a Subject, *reply'd he, with all humility*, to espouse the Man made wretched by your Displeasure; but if fond Love, and the weakness of her Sex should influence her
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in behalf of the fallen MARMILLIO, be assur'd, my Royal Lord, DORASPE never will consent to such a Match; and if he has IRENE, he shall take her portionless and unfriended. That is not all, *resum'd the Prince*, that I expect from one, who, I would fain believe, would serve me in more than an outside show;—'twill be enough for his ambitious Aims, that he has married the Sister of DORASPE.—Whoever IRENE chuses for a Husband, cannot be without Support and Friends; and tho' you withhold your Hand or Countenance to his Proceedings, there may be others of your Family less Dutiful and Loyal——I insist upon it, therefore, that on no Consideration he obtain that Title, and as the only certain means of preventing it, you immediately dispose of her to some one more worthy of her Charms. He spoke these last Words with so much warmth and vehemence, that the other, who very well knew his Disposition was somewhat Arbitrary, easily saw he was in this resolv'd to be obey'd; and after a little pause, To prove, *said he*, how sacred to DORASPE are all the Commands of his Sovereign, there is nothing in my power I would omit.—In a late Conversation with ARBANES, he propos'd his Son ERNESTUS; his Birth indeed but meanly answers ours, nor is his Fortune equivalent with what my brotherly Affection has design'd

design'd to make IRENE mistress of: yet if I could prevail upon her, there are Reasons, which, with the approbation of your Highness, would induce me to consent. This was all the Prince waited for; and as soon as he had done speaking, ERNESTUS answer'd, He has a stock of Merit which may well excuse his other Wants; nor do I think that you can find a Man more rich in inward Virtues, and intrinsick Worth. They must be little acquainted with a Court who do not know that the Dependants on a Prince's Favour, think nothing too great a Sacrifice to offer for it. Add to this, of itself a sufficient Motive, DORASPE had the certainty of the gratification of his Passion with EURIDICE; so that, without any further hesitation, he told the Prince that his Will should be performed, as soon as IRENE was returned from visiting her sick Mother.

Thus far every thing went to the satisfaction of ARBANES and ERNESTUS, (who promised themselves prodigious Advantages by these Nuptials) and to the secret contentment of MARMILLIO: But in the midst of those agreeable Reflections, which the ready Assent of DORASPE had given them, there arose an obstacle which none of them had apprehended. Not all the State and Grandeur, which attended this Alliance, could charm EURIDICE from her first Vows; the gay and glorious Prospect had no Attractions;

traactions for her constant Wishes; her *Virgin-Heart*, with her *Virgin-Favours*, were in the Prince's keeping; and she thought it more felicitous to continue in an obscure Life, bless'd but by stealth with his Endearments, than to blaze out in all the Pomp of Wealth and Titles, with any other Man; and thought it nobler Pleasure to indulge herself in Guilt and secret Infamy with him, than share all Honours with a noble Husband. Instead of receiving the news with satisfaction, when ARBANES told her, that every thing was agreed on between DORASPE and himself, she expressed the most bitter discontent; reproach'd him as much as the Character he bore, and her Obligations to him would permit, of Cruelty, and want of Tenderneſs, in going about to force her Inclinations; protesting, that she would never make a Sacrifice of herself in that manner; nor would be influenced by any Considerations to bestow her Person where it was impossible for her to give her Heart.—It was in vain that both he and ERNESTUS urg'd the Advantages of such a Match, and set before her eyes the Charms of Power and Greatness: She was not to be moved, either by the Persuasions of the one, or the Menaces which the other, on whom she from her Childhood had been a dependant, made use of. But when he repeated to her some part of the Conversation he had had with
with

with the Prince, and she found that he also had approved of it ; he, in whose Love she had so much confidence, as to imagine he would never be prevail'd on to relinquish the Title she had given him over her ; she fell into Agonies which were very near depriving her of her Senses ; she raved, tore her Hair, exclaim'd against the Perjury and Ingratitude of THEODORE, and curs'd her own too unbelieving Nature, in terms which confirmed ARBANES in what he before suspected, that she had been seduced by the Insinuations of the Prince. Less troubled, however, at her fall from Virtue, than that the fondness of her Passion made her blind to the Interest of her Family, in the alliance with DORASPE, he took no notice to her of the *former*, but exerted all the Power he had over her, both by Blood and Bounty, to oblige her to consider the *latter*, as a reasonable Woman would do : but finding that she persisted in obstinacy, and that all he said to her seem'd rather to strengthen the Resolution she had taken of continuing in a single Life, he reported her Behaviour to the Prince ; adding withal, that it was only from his own mouth that she would believe he had given his consent for her Marriage. Conscious of what had pass'd between them, and the Vows by which he had seduced her, fain would he have saved himself the shock of appearing in this Affair ;

fair ; but finding it was absolutely necessary, both for the easing himself of the trouble of any future Dissimulation with her, and accomplishing the Promise he had made to MARMILLIO, who but by this double Marriage could be set free from his Contract with IRENE, he at last consented to go to the House of ARBANES. Being brought into the Room where the unhappy Victim of his inconstant Wishes sat, all drown'd in tears, and in a posture which denoted the most deep Despair, ARBANES withdrew, as it were out of respect, but in reality to give him an opportunity of saying those things to her, which it might not be proper he should be witness of. The sad and dejected Air with which she receiv'd him, a little mov'd his Soul ; and sitting down by her, and taking one of her Hands with a Tenderness which was not wholly feigned, he intreated her to let him know the Cause of that Melancholy in which he found her. Can you ask that ? *said she.* Ah, too lovely cruel Prince ! let your own Heart inform you : Reflect on your late Indifference, your vain Excuses for Absence ; your Coldness when, unable to live without your sight, I forc'd myself into your presence. — On too solid a foundation, alas ! were my Suspicions built, which told me you were false, and I undone. — Now you confirm even more than my worst fears suggested ; — without

a Blush avow Inconstancy, nor seek Pretences for your Change of Humour, but throw me from you as a thing unworthy your regard. — For by what softer Term can you call that Consent, which I am told you have given for my Marriage with DORASPE? As these kind of Reproaches were the Salutation he expected from her, so he had prepared himself with Answers for them. Unjust EURIDICE, *said he*, to censure that as Neglect, which was only caus'd by the most tender Care. — The Princess began, my Dearest, to suspect that some more powerful Call than Business drew me so often hither; nor could I have continued my frequent Visits, without prejudice to thy Reputation: Our Amour, which I would not have told thee but to clear myself, is already but too much whisper'd among the Courtiers; and daily did I expect 'twould reach HYANTHE's ears. — I therefore denied my longing Wishes, for a time, the Blessing of thy Love, that I hereafter might enjoy it fearless and secure. Yet you would give me to another! *interrupted she*. Ah! Prince, how ill do your Actions and your Words agree! Have patience, sweet EURIDICE, *resumed he*, till you have heard me out. I was about to tell you, that I thought Heaven, in the Passion of DORASPE, sent you the means to make yourself and me as happy as our mutual Circumstances could

could hope : A Wife has many Liberties, which in the niceness of a Virgin-State are not allow'd ; and if in new Embraces you find not Joys which may utterly obliterate those you have tasted in my once happy Arms, the Ceremony of Marriage has in it no Spell to hinder the Effects of Inclination. — I am a Husband, yet love EURIDICE ; why then should not she, when made a Wife, continue to bless her THEODORE ? Heavens! *cry'd she*, how little delicate are the Notions of Mankind ! How many Chambers do your Hearts contain for different Impressions and Degrees of Passion ! — But 'tis not so in our too faithful Sex ; one dear Idea takes up all the Soul, we have no room to entertain another, and but with scorn look down on those who would intrude. — No, Prince, *pursued she*, 'tis you alone I love ; nor can I think DORASPE worthy my regard. I ask it not for him, *replied the Prince*, but would wish you to have so much for yourself, as not to forfeit the Benefits which this Alliance offers, for a romantick Whim ; a Chimæra, which has no Being but in a distemper'd Imagination. — Cast your Eyes round the Court ; nay, examine the generality of the married World, you will find infinitely more who for Convenience wed, than Love. — Complaisance is all that now-a-days is expected from a Husband ; and
good

good Conduct, to preserve her Reputation, from a Wife.

He then began to repeat to her those Arguments which ARBANES and ERNESTUS had before made use of, to convince her of the Joys which Wealth and Grandeur bless'd the Possessors of them with; but all he could urge on that head being ineffectual, he had again recourse to Dissimulation. And finding that she was proof against all temptations but his *Love*, he endeavour'd to make it appear, that the only way to secure *that*, was to marry with DORASPE; which, *he said*, by taking away all suspicion of their former Amour, would secure the continuance of it. And perceiving she still seem'd to doubt the sincerity of his Passion, he omitted nothing which might serve to assure her, that it flamed with the same ardency as ever. And because *Words* are look'd upon but as poor Demonstrations of a vigorous Affection, he forbore no *Actions* which might make him seem possess'd of it. The Impatience he had of accomplishing his Design, which he found could be done no other way than by well-deceiving her, supplied the place of amorous Inclination; and thus agitated, she found no difference between the warmth of his present Caresses, and those which first triumph'd o'er her violated Chastity: But still accompanying the highest Raptures of

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their

their mutual Endearments with Expressions such as these—— My dear EURIDICE! *would he cry*, Heaven cannot give a Joy beyond thee. —— And then—— Could I consent DORASPE should partake these Joys but to secure the possession of them to my self!—— Thus, in those very Transports which one would think should most disclose, and lay open all the Soul, did he disguise the Purposes of his; and what was the effect of deep Design, seem'd artless Tenderness, and unbiass'd Love.

How easy is it for the darling Object of our Affections to persuade us to almost any thing, especially when we are made to believe the Arguments used to seduce us, are dictated by that Passion by which ourselves are ruled. Rather than be deprived of the possession of THEODORE, she consented to be possess'd by DORASPE, and assured the Prince before his departure, that she would receive that Nobleman, when next he visited her, as a Person she intended to make her Husband.

This Difficulty so well got over, a new one presented itself; DORASPE having writ to his Sister concerning the design he had of marrying her to ERNESTUS, he received an Answer from her, which as soon as he had read, he communicated to the Prince; the Contents of it were as follows :

To

To DORASPE.

' **T**IS impossible for any Heart to be
 ' sensible of a more perfect Pleasure
 ' than mine felt, at hearing my dearest Bro-
 ' ther was returned in safety to *Carama-*
 ' *nia*; I received your welcome Letter with
 ' all the Transports which can attend the
 ' most sincere Affection: but whatever sa-
 ' tisfaction the beginning of it afforded me,
 ' I soon found a considerable Allay. I know
 ' not whether my Grief, or my Surprise,
 ' was most predominant, when I came to
 ' that part of it which acquainted me you
 ' had made choice of a Husband for me;
 ' and that the Man you thought worthy of
 ' that Alliance, was ERNESTUS. Had I re-
 ' ceived the news from any other hand, I
 ' should have testified my disbelief by my
 ' disdain. — Nothing but yourself could
 ' have convinced me, that you could so far
 ' forget our Birth, as to look on the Son
 ' of ARBANES as a fit Match for the Sister
 ' of DORASPE. — To what motive can I
 ' ascribe so strange an alteration in your
 ' Humour? For fain would I suppose it any
 ' thing rather than Unkindness, or a desire
 ' of throwing off that Care you have so
 ' often promis'd should end not but with
 ' Life; and with which I have been hi-
 ' therto so bless'd, that I ne'er knew a Fa-

'ther's Loss. ——— It is with the utmost
 ' Gratitude, Sir ! I acknowledge the past Be-
 ' nefits I have received from your brotherly
 ' Affection and Indulgence ; nor should any
 ' thing on my part be wanting to testify
 ' the just Sense I have of all your Good-
 ' nefs ; not even in this, the most difficult,
 ' and also most exceptionable Command
 ' you could lay on me, would I refuse
 ' obedience, were the grant of it in my
 ' power : But, alas ! my Heart has been suf-
 ' ceptible of a Passion, which is too uni-
 ' versal not to be forgiven in a Person of
 ' my Years. ——— In fine, MARMILLIO
 ' has woo'd, and won me ; I am his by so-
 ' lemn Contract ; we are confirm'd to each
 ' other by Obligations too strong to be
 ' dispensed with ; and to go about to part
 ' us, would be to act in opposition to all
 ' the Laws of Heaven and Earth. ——— But I
 ' have much to say to you on this ac-
 ' count ; too much, indeed, and too ma-
 ' terial to be trusted to Paper. ——— I
 ' shall, therefore, defer it till I am happy
 ' enough to see you, which I hope will
 ' be in a few days. ——— My Mother's
 ' Indisposition has almost left her. ———
 ' Soon as her recovery is compleated, I
 ' will hasten to intreat your pardon for
 ' having proceeded thus far without ac-
 ' quainting you. ——— In the mean time, I
 ' hope

I hope you will suspend your but too just
 Displeasure, and believe me ever,

*Your most Affectionate Sister,
 Obliged Friend, and
 Obedient Servant,*

IRENE.

The Prince now found that what MARMILLIO had told him concerning the Disposition of this Lady, was no more than truth ; but as this was an Impediment, which he could not but expect, he was the better prepared to oppose it. He told DORASPE, in giving him back the Letter, that if the Resolutions he had lately taken, were to be moved by the ill-grounded Passion of a Woman who knew not her own Interest, he must not take it unkindly ; that tho' he made MARMILLIO his Brother, that Consideration would be too weak to protect him from his Resentment. He has offended me, *said he*, in a manner which I cannot pardon, without an Injustice to myself.—— And if IRENE marries him, 'tis probable that it must be in Exile only she will have the opportunity to enjoy her Husband. These words, pronounced with the utmost Earnestness, join'd to what had been said before, and the late Behaviour of the Prince to that seemingly disgraced Favourite,

made DORASPE not doubt the sincerity of them, and fearing to become a Partner in the Royal Displeasure, forgot nothing which might testify he merited not to incur it; he express'd himself in the most bitter Terms, both against MARMILLIO and IRENE also, for having enter'd into an Engagement of that nature, without having first consulted him; and concluded with repeated Asseverations, that nothing in his power should be wanting to make her alter her Resolution, which if she still persisted in, he would never see her more, nor contribute in the least to her support. After giving the Prince all the Assurances he was able, he retired to his own Apartment, to prepare a Letter for her, which should acquaint her with the present Position of MARMILLIO's Affairs, and his own determination, if she continued refractory to his Designs.

While MARMILLIO was thus happy in the sincere Endeavours of his Prince to free him from IRENE, he was no less fortunate in his Designs on ARILLA; and in a few Hours after the receipt of his, she sent him the following reply.

To MARMILLIO.

‘ **I** Have too much Sincerity in my own
 ‘ Nature to believe the contrary in an-
 ‘ other, without very great Appearances;
 ‘ that

' that there were such on your account, your-
 ' self confesses; and if you believe I lov'd,
 ' as I have given but too convincing Proofs
 ' I do, you should have undeceived me
 ' sooner; and if there be any thing now
 ' remaining to make me doubt your Truth,
 ' 'tis, that you should thus long sustain In-
 ' quietudes, which it was in your power
 ' so easily to be freed from, and of which
 ' you must be certain I endur'd at least an
 ' equal Portion.—— Can any thing be
 ' more terrible, than to suppose Ingrati-
 ' tude and Falshood in the Person one sin-
 ' cerely loves?—— To wish to hate, yet
 ' find all the Efforts one can make inef-
 ' fectual to attain that Passion?—— All
 ' this my anxious Soul has labour'd un-
 ' der; ought I not then to repay it in some
 ' measure?—— Should I not make this Re-
 ' conciliation more difficult to be accom-
 ' plish'd?—— And let you know the Tor-
 ' tures of Suspence, as I have those of ill-
 ' requited Love and Tenderneſs abus'd?—
 ' Most sure I am, I ought to do so; but
 ' though I am of a Humour nicely just to
 ' others, I am too liable to forget what is
 ' owing to myself: nor have I enough the
 ' power of disguising the Passions of my
 ' Soul, not to let you know that I receive
 ' this Evidence of your Integrity with a
 ' Joy, which no Expressions of it can make
 ' you comprehend: but if you are at lei-

‘ sure this Evening, to make a Visit at that
 ‘ House which was before designed our
 ‘ Scene of Happiness, my Behaviour shall
 ‘ demonstrate with how ardent a Passion I
 ‘ am

My Dear MARMILLIO’S

Eternally Devoted.

ARILLA.

Mean and enervate would be all Description of what this now transported Lover felt, at but the Prospect of approaching Bliss; much more, when at the appointed time he was in the real Possession of it: the experienced Reader’s Imagination alone can do Justice to Extasies, which he will own beyond the reach of Words. Buried, therefore, in the tumultuous Transport, let us leave him for a while, and return to the enamour’d Prince, who was in daily apprehension of being eternally depriv’d of those Felicities his Favourite enjoy’d, in the supremest manner that Youth and mutual Desire could yield.

As much as possible had he delay’d his Answer to the *Anatolian* Ambassadors on the Business they were sent on from their King; but no longer being able to find any Excuses to detain them, he was at last oblig’d to deliver his Dispatches. They were now preparing for their departure, and

and ISMONDA at her wits ends for a Pretence to stay behind them. HYANTHE had already given her consent, nor could the Prince interpose, without giving too plain a Proof how deeply he was interested in it. The melancholy Hours these Lovers now pass'd together, was proportion'd to the height of Happiness they had enjoy'd, while no intruding Fears of separation embitter'd the Extasy of rewarded Tendernefs. ISMONDA, to her other Vexations, had that added of being depriv'd of MARMILLIO, from whose apt Invention and Advice, she might have hoped some Relief from the present exigence; she durst not publicly countenance him for fear of disoblighing the Prince, with whom she, as well as the rest of the Court, believ'd him in disgrace: and THEODORE was now perpetually with her, that she had not an opportunity of entertaining him in private. But it was not so with her impatient Lover; he fail'd not to communicate the Misfortunes which threaten'd the prosecution of his Love to him, and conjure him to use his utmost Efforts for finding out some Stratagem by which he might preserve this Darling of his Soul. It is not to be doubted but that MARMILLIO exerted his utmost skill to requite the Obligations he had lately receiv'd from the Friendship of the Prince, and to render himself worthy of his restored Confidence; yet

yet could not all his Subtilty find any Expedient which had the prospect of Success. Never were any Persons involv'd in a more perplex'd *Dilemma* than were these three; but by what means they were extricated from it, and who had the Glory of inventing it, I shall, at another opportunity, faithfully relate.

The End of the Second Part.



PART



P A R T III.



THE Day prefix'd for the departure of the *Anatolian* Ambassadors being very near at hand, not only THEODORE, but MARMILLIO also, having so great an Interest in preserving himself in the Favour he had lately regain'd, were almost distracted to find, that on cool Consideration, every Stratagem that either of them could invent for the detaining of ISMONDA, appear'd impracticable: but tho' neither of them wanted Cunning nor Artifice, yet in the Affairs of Love, that Lady gave an Instance, that no Subtilty can vie with that of Woman's, when resolute to obtain her Purpose.

ADRASTUS had a Brother, who, by being born some Years before him, depriv'd him of a very great Title, hereditary to the elder Sons of that Family; but tho' the Dignity was inseparable from his Birth, there appear'd even from his Childhood an incapacity of
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managing the Estate which was to descend with it; and when arriv'd at maturity, discover'd such strange Caprices in his Humour, as might very well pass for the effects of Idiotism or Frenzy: The Father, therefore, in his last Testament, wisely bequeath'd his Lands to him who seem'd most worthy of them, leaving the other a small Annuity, sufficient indeed to keep him from want, but far from a competency of supporting him in a manner proportionable to the Honours of his Rank. CLOTUS, for that was the Name of this unhappy Nobleman, was much less concern'd for this Misfortune than his Friends were for him; he had no Notions of Grandeur or Reputation, and having it in his power to indulge his Appetite in those things he delighted in, which were chiefly eating and drinking, not voluptuously, but in larger quantities than is consistent with Moderation; he little regarded what the World said of him, or envy'd the august Figure of his younger Brother. Never had he attempted to disturb him in the peaceable enjoyments of those Revenues which were his by Birthright, had not the frequent Importunities of almost as many as were acquainted with him, in a manner compell'd him to do it; and more to get rid of their Admonitions, than to gratify any Desire of his own, he at last consented to have recourse to Law, and put

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ADRASTUS to the proof of the Justice of their Father's Will. Tedious, and prodigious expensive on both sides was this Controversy, the Decision lying wholly on the Question, If *Clotus* ought, or ought not to be term'd an *Idiot*. Many ridiculous Instances of his Folly were made known in Court, but whether sufficient to bring him, strictly speaking, under that denomination, the Judges of the Cause confess'd themselves at a loss, and from time to time deferr'd their Sentence, and demanded yet longer Consideration, and more substantial Proofs. One very great Reason of their acting in this manner, one may, without being guilty of an Injury to any body, impute to the great Interest of ADRASTUS; the apprehension of offending the King in the Person of his Favourite, no doubt, had an Influence over those, who from him had receiv'd the Power of inspecting into this Affair. To add to this, ADRASTUS was in possession, CLOTUS but sued to be so, and could not make those present Gratifications for Favours done him, which his Brother cou'd.---From the generous and obliging Disposition of the one, there was every thing to be hoped, nothing from the mean and degenerate Nature of the other.---

ADRASTUS had the favour of his Superiors, and was belov'd by his Equals; CLOTUS kept no Company but with those beneath
him,

him, delighting himself only in vulgar Conversation, and such, as having a dependance on him, bore with his Caprices, and humour'd his Folly. The most disinterested part of Mankind confess'd the excellent Qualifications of ADRASTUS merited more than he enjoy'd, and the greatest Sticklers for Hereditary Right, could not forbear avowing that they thought it a great pity that CLOTUS had that Plea.—All these Considerations, together with the unusual prolongation of the Process, oblig'd some of the greatest Men in the Kingdom to interpose between them, and endeavour to bring both the Brothers to terms of Accommodation. ADRASTUS was prevail'd on to double the Annuity left by his Father's Will ; and the other having, besides his natural aversion to Business, experienc'd those Wants as well as Fatigues which attend a necessitous Prosecution, was glad, at any rate, to drop it, and readily accepted the Proposals made to him by the Mediators. Those who had flatter'd themselves with the hope of making Fortunes out of the Estate when in the possession of CLOTUS, finding their Designs defeated by this Agreement, went another way to work, which was to persuade him to marry : they knew that if he had a Son born in Wedlock, all the Pretences which ADRASTUS cou'd make, would not be look'd upon as sufficient to debar the Child

Child from inheriting the Estate of his Ancestors ; and to that end, Women were introduced to his Acquaintance, adorn'd and recommended to him in such a manner, as they thought most likely to win him to their purpose : More than once was he very near falling into the Snare prepar'd for him, and it was as much as all the good Management of ADRASTUS could do, to save him from becoming the Husband of one who liv'd by Prostitution, and was brought to him by some of those Creatures he made choice of for Companions, as a Lady of Quality.

In this posture stood the Affair, when ISMONDA left the Kingdom of *Anatolia* ; and having learned from the Lords sent in Embassy, that there had been little Alteration since her Departure : Love, ingenious in Invention, help'd her, out of this, to form a plausible Excuse for delaying her return. The Head of the *Magi* (which are a sort of secular Priests, who, by their Function, are deny'd to marry) being lately dead, she told the Prince that he must reserve that Honour for a Friend of hers, who she would send for to receive it : And, *said she*, because I know such high Places are not conferred without some view of Interest, even by the Sovereign himself, I will offer a Bribe, which I hope my dearest THEODORE will not think an inconsiderable
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one : It is, *pursued she, looking on him with Eyes which seem'd streaming with Desire*, the Assurance of continuing those Joys, you say, are in my power to give. The amorous Prince could not hear that she had even a thought of tarrying with him, without expressing himself in terms the most rapturous and endearing : but giving truce to them much sooner than else he would have done, to ask how the grant of what she demanded could be of service to their Love ; she gratify'd his impatient Curiosity, by letting him into the Disposition of CLOTUS, and the continual Fears ADRASTUS was involv'd in on the account of that unhappy Brother, lest he should be prevail'd on to marry to the Disgrace of their noble Family, and the Ruin of his Hopes. She then named CLOTUS as the Person she desir'd should be chief of the *Magi in Caramania* : I know not, *said she*, if he will accept it, but my appearing as an Intercessor gives me an Excuse for staying, which will be less suspected than any I can make.——'Twould be endless to repeat the Retributions made her by the transported Prince, for this Testimony of the zealous Inclinations she had to remain with him ; he prais'd her Love, her Wit, the Obligations he had to her, in terms which demonstrated the Sense he had of them. Never had he been more charm'd with her
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than at this instant, and never had she received more ardent Proofs of the Sincerity of his Passion, than those which he now gave her. Their mutual Extasy indulged, they began to consult in what method they should proceed in this Affair, so as the turn might not appear too quick, and render the Design of it liable to Conjecture: and it was concluded, that HYANTHE should in this, as she had been in every thing else, be made the Property. ISMONDA, after preparing her by some necessary Professions of Tendernefs and Friendship, should entreat her to solicit her Husband for this Place for CLOTUS; which he at last should grant, tho' with a kind of Reluctance, and, as it were, wholly to oblige the Princess. ISMONDA doubted not of succeeding with that easy-temper'd Lady, who she knew would take her desires of staying in *Caramania*, as the Effect of Love to her; and as soon as that Excess of Fondness, with which at this time both seem'd animated, would give them leave to separate, she went to the royal Apartment to put in execution the Stratagem she had contriv'd; and he retir'd to his Closet, where he sent for MARMILLIO; not only to communicate to him the Kindness of ISMONDA, but also to discourse with him on other Affairs of almost equal moment to his Peace.

He imparted to him the Conversation he had with DORASPE, and the Contents of the Letter IRENE had sent to him; on which it was agreed, that, to give the greater Air of Reality to the pretended Animosity between them, MARMILLIO should withdraw from Court for a small time, whispering among his Acquaintance, before his Departure, that he had received a private Order for that purpose. The time also being near arrived in which LUTETIA expected to be deliver'd of her Burthen, it was judged convenient that she should be removed to a greater distance, and that MARMILLIO should continue visiting her, and carry on the Deceit till after her Delivery, lest the knowledge of her Misfortune, join'd to the Melancholy of her present Condition, should throw her into a Despair which might make her forget every thing, except the Wrong she had sustain'd, and drive her to some Extravagance which might unravel all; but that as soon as she was recover'd, he should, in as gentle terms as the Business would allow of, acquaint her with the Truth, and endeavour to make her sensible, that whatever Faults a Prince was guilty of, he was accountable only to the Gods: and if she was no longer capable of contributing to the Pleasure of her Sovereign, it was only her own Ill-fortune she must accuse, and that it was the

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the Duty of a Subject to study Obedience and a patient Resignation. You must expect, *said* THEODORE, when first you urge these Arguments, only such Answers to them as are dictated by the extremest Rage; but when Passion has had time to cool, she will consider, that to appear contented will be of the most advantage to her Reputation, and that to make a show of being otherwise, will be of no service, either to retrieve the Heart she no longer has Charms to retain, or Power to resent the Disappointment, since given by a hand whence there is no appeal.

There was nothing he commanded that this obedient Favourite did not readily promise, and doubted not but he should be able to take such effectual Measures with LUTETIA, as should prevent her from ever being troublesome to him; nor did he find the least Reluctance in any thing he was to do, but that of leaving ARILLA, of whom he as yet continu'd passionately fond; but the Necessity of his own Affairs with IRENE, requiring the imaginary Disgrace to be carry'd on with the utmost Caution, gave him no room to make an Objection to the Proposal of his Prince; who assuring him, that as soon as he had brought about the Marriage of DORASPE and EURIDICE, ERNESTUS and IRENE, he would in publick testify the Friendship he now

bore him in secret; they embraced and parted.

But with what Agonies of Mind the fond ARILLA received the news of her Lover's Banishment, is scarce to be imagined; he endeavour'd to comfort her in vain, she gave way to the Violence of her Grief, she fear'd for him and for herself;—she trembled, lest the Rage of an offended Sovereign should proceed yet farther; she knew not but he might be going to an eternal Exile, or perhaps be permitted to return, but on terms more cruel.—She doubted also the Force of her own Charms, and could not flatter herself with an Assurance, that in absence they would maintain their Power.—Nothing could be more tender and moving, than were her Adjurations of Fidelity, nor than the Imprecations he made, if ever he prov'd false.—Loving her with so real a Passion as he at that time did, it was as much as he could do to restrain himself from letting her into the whole Mystery of his pretended Banishment; and had it not been that the Secret of his Prince was mingled with his own, 'tis probable he had given her that Demonstration, how much his Soul was hers.—He told her, however, the Place of his design'd Retreat, assuring her he would write frequently, and entreating she would be as punctual in her Answers.

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Having taken his farewell of ARILLA, he went to LUTETIA, who believing every thing he did, was caus'd by the Care the Prince had of her Reputation, made no Objections to her removal; which MARMILLIO contriv'd to be to a place, where there was no Company among whom it was suppos'd she could make a Confidante. Then, after having taken a solemn leave of all his Friends, he departed on his voluntary Banishment.

This seeming Displeasure of the Prince, against a Man who had been so publicly known his greatest Favourite, occasion'd much Speculation among the Courtiers; some imputed the Cause to one thing, some to another, but not one among them had any suspicion of the Truth. ISMONDA was extremely surpriz'd at it, and more than once intreated to be inform'd of what was so puzzling to every body; but THEODORE, (as by what has been said of his Behaviour to EURIDICE, may easily be believ'd) knew how, in the midst of Raptures, to preserve Discretion, and would not suffer himself to be prevail'd on to explain the Mystery, evading giving any direct answer to the Interrogatories she made him; and only told her, that he found him too presuming on the familiarity with which he had treated him, and forbad him the Court to let him

see he stood in no need of that Service on which he had too much valu'd himself. ISMONDA, whose Suspicions of EURIDICE were not yet extinct, set it down in her own Mind for a certainty, that he was discarded for no other reason than to make room for ARBANES, because that was the only Motive which she imagin'd the Prince would have conceal'd from her. The Advice, however, that MARMILLIO had given her, together with the intended Marriage of her Rival, enabled her to refrain giving any marks of Jealousy ; and perceiving all the Discourse of MARMILLIO was unwelcome, she forbore to speak any more of him till a fitter opportunity should offer for an attempt to make his Peace, which she very much wish'd to bring about, believing him wholly in her Interest, and that she might in him have a vigilant Observer of the Prince's Actions.

Thus was Deceit either to attain or conceal their several Designs, on every side made use of. The Princess and DORASPE were the only Persons made Properties of, without returning the Imposition ; the former of them truly loving ISMONDA, was glad of an opportunity to detain her, without obliging her to infringe the Duty of her matrimonial Vow, and with the utmost Good-Nature, and Sincerity, assured her she would

would exert her Interest with the Prince for conferring on CLOTUS the Honour she requested for him. And the other, wholly taken up and devoted to the Charms of EURIDICE, had not leisure to inspect into the secret Reasons which mov'd the Prince to appear so zealous for the marriage of ERNESTUS with IRENE ; and the Banishment of MARMILLIO, confirming what the Prince had told him, he thought it also as much to the prejudice of IRENE herself, to think of him for a Husband, as the making him so, would be to the accomplishment of his own Designs on EURIDICE. He therefore wrote to her a second time, acquainting her with the present posture of Affairs ; and mingling some Menaces with his Persuasions, to oblige her to consent to that which he imagin'd was the only means to establish both his and her own Happiness.

ISMONDA was all this while busily employ'd in her Sollicitations for the Brother of ADRASTUS ; there was no body who seem'd to have any Interest with the Prince or Princess, that she did not engage to back her Intercessions : but the former, as was agreed between them, still evaded any positive determination, and continued neither granting, nor refusing, till the Eve before that Day in which the Ambassadors were to depart from *Caramania*. They waited on

her at her Apartment; to know her Resolution concerning accompanying them ; to which she reply'd, That being negotiating an Affair of the greatest Importance to her Husband, which not being yet accomplish'd, she could not, without an irreparable detriment to their mutual Interest, leave it in Suspence: but intreated they would deliver a Letter to him, the Contents whereof were in this manner.

To my dear ADRASTUS.

‘ **H**OW griev’d am I, that I cannot
 ‘ give that Proof of my Love and
 ‘ Duty which you require of me, without
 ‘ being guilty of a Prejudice to your Interest,
 ‘ which would be more unpardonable than
 ‘ the seeming Unkindness of this Absence.
 ‘ My faithful Heart, ever anxious for your
 ‘ ease, has found the means, I hope, to
 ‘ put an eternal period to those Apprehen-
 ‘ sions you have long labour’d under, of the
 ‘ Marriage of your degenerate Brother.
 ‘ Among the unnumber’d Obligations I have
 ‘ receiv’d from the goodness of our excellent
 ‘ Princess, she has taken the Affair between
 ‘ you and CLOTUS into Consideration, and
 ‘ made it the Business of many days, to sol-
 ‘ licite her Royal Consort for providing
 ‘ for him in a manner which will not take
 ‘ away,

' away, but rather add to the Honour of his
 ' illustrious Birth, and at the same time
 ' rid you of those Fears you are continually
 ' involved in on his account.—The Head
 ' of the *Magi* is lately dead, and that our
 ' Brother may succeed him, she exerts her
 ' utmost Interest; the Grant is not yet ab-
 ' solutely given, but I am in daily expecta-
 ' tion of the Prince's acceding to what
 ' she so earnestly desires of him.—Should
 ' I leave *Caramania* till this is quite com-
 ' pleted, enough there are who would use
 ' their utmost endeavours to make an ad-
 ' vantage of my absence for procuring the
 ' Honours which attend this Post, either for
 ' themselves or Friends.—Judge now, my
 ' for-ever-lov'd ADRASTUS, if you have
 ' reason to accuse me of want of Tender-
 ' ness, when all my Thoughts are taken up
 ' with studying your Felicity: be you as
 ' careful on your part, and inspire such
 ' Notions into the Breast of CLOTUS, as
 ' shall make him willing to receive a Fa-
 ' vour so advantageous for himself, and
 ' which fixes you in so entire a Security
 ' from any future Troubles on his score.—
 ' I shall say nothing in return to what you
 ' seem to hint at, of the little Artifices made
 ' use of by some base Detractors, to blast
 ' my Reputation; my Conduct will suffi-
 ' ciently vindicate my Innocence to the dis-
 ' interested World, as the nobler Proofs I
 ' give

‘ give my Tendernefs, will, I hope, fatisfy
 ‘ you, that I am,

With the utmoft Sincerity,

My dear ADRASTUS,

Your truly Affectionate Wife,

Faithful Friend,

and moft Obedient Servant,

ISMONDA.

P. S. ‘ Soon as the Affair of CLOTUS
 ‘ can be accomplifh’d, and he is arriv’d in
 ‘ *Caramania*, and fettled in his Poft, ex-
 ‘ pect to receive a Wife; who, by the
 ‘ Testimonies ſhe gives you of her Concern
 ‘ for you in abſence, ought more to endear
 ‘ herſelf to your Affections and Eſteem,
 ‘ than by all the little Fondneſſes of her
 ‘ Sex when preſent. Once more, deareſt
 ‘ of Mankind, Adieu.

Scarce ever had ISMONDA known a greater Contentment, than that ſhe felt at ſeeing theſe Ambaſſadors depart without her; nor could any thing have afforded more felicitous Reflections to THEODORE: a while did both enjoy an uninterrupted Scene of Pleaſure, but *Fortune*, to let them ſee her Power was abſolute, raiſed them up new Troubles, at a time when they thought themſelves moſt ſecure.

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ARIDANOR was one of the chief of the *Caramanian* Lords, and on the account of his high Birth, vast Possessions, and personal Accomplishments, was held in the greatest esteem of any of the Noblemen of that Principality. He had been married some Years to a Lady whom his Inclination only had raised to that Honour, she being far inferior to him in Extraction, and the Goods of Fortune: they had liv'd together in a perfect Amity, nor was there any thing in his Behaviour which denoted the least Deviation from that Esteem, which led him first to make choice of her for a Wife: But how uncertain is the Heart of Man? On how weak a Foundation is the Happiness of that Woman built, which depends upon the Faith of that inconstant and ever-varying Sex? The once-admired Beauties of BARSINA, for that is the Name of his Wife, were forgot in the Reflection of those ISMONDA seem'd possess'd of; and tho', in reality, less lovely than the other, to the chang'd Humour of ARIDANOR appear'd beyond compare.—Long had he in secret languish'd; her Character and Behaviour struck him with an Awe, which would not suffer him to reveal his Passion; and, difficult as it is to smother Desire, he concealed his so well, that even the Fair Inspirer was ignorant of the Conquest she had gain'd: but with what inexpressible In-

Inquietudes he obtain'd this Mastery over himself, those only who have felt the like, are capable of conceiving : tho' hopeless of Success, the busy Flame would not, however, suffer him to rest ; he was a diligent Observer of all the Words and Actions of ISMONDA ; he had Spies about her wherever she went, and to watch about her Apartment, and bring him Intelligence of whatever Visits she received. Yet so cautious was she in her Amour, that for a great while his Assiduity serv'd but more to confirm him in the Opinion the whole Court had of her Virtue ; and he was about giving over the vain Pursuit of finding any thing which might encourage him to hope she had the least Propensity to intrigue, when Chance presented him with a Discovery, which not all his Industry could supply him with.

The Evening before the Departure of the *Anatolian* Ambassadors, the Princess gave a splendid Entertainment and Ball at her own Apartment : ARIDANOR was one of the invited Guests ; and never had he thought ISMONDA more lovely, than he did that night. Among the dazzling Assembly of Beauties, which seem'd each to strive who should excel her fair Cotemporaries in Magnificence of Apparel, and Blaze of Jewels, she alone attracted his Eyes ; and, like the Sun, with a superior Brightness, eclipsed

clipf'd the Shine of any other Charms. It being customary in fuch places, for the young Ladies and Noblemen to retire now and then in little Parties into the adjacent Rooms, in order to entertain one another with greater freedom than was becoming in the royal Prefence ; ARIDANOR, not to feem particularly grave, did as he faw others do, and as himfelf had been ufed to behave, but always took the opportunity of going when ISMONDA was abfent : but having more Inclination to indulge his own Reflections, than enter into any Converfation which would deprive him of the pleafure of contemplating the Beauties of ISMONDA, he withdrew into a Room which he faw entirely free from Company ; and throwing himfelf into an eafy Chair, gave a loofe to Thought, and to the labouring Difquiets of his o'er-burthen'd Soul. But he had not been there many moments, before he faw ISMONDA pafs fwiftly by him : he follow'd her with his Eyes, and 'tis probable had done fo with his Steps, had he not feen the Prince, who, on fome occafion, was juft then coming out of the Drawing-room ; and meeting ISMONDA, cry'd to her in a low Voice, yet loud enough for the aftonifhed Liftner to hear, My Angel ! my ever-lafting Charmer ! how infinitely furpaffing all thy Sex befide is thy Perfection ! A tender Preflure of her Hand, and languifh-
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ing Glance accompany'd this Expression, and perhaps had been succeeded by others of the same nature, if the same Instant a Crowd of Gentlemen had not been coming that way. ARIDANOR follow'd ISMONDA, unseen by her, into the Drawing-room, more perplexed and confounded in his Mind, than can be well imagined; he seated himself opposite to her, and could not look on her, without the Confusion of his Thoughts showing itself as visibly in his Face, as would have appear'd in hers, had she been sensible of the Discovery he had made; but *Security* supplying the place of *Innocence*, she look'd not guilty, because not conscious she was thought so.——

Never did Passions war with greater Vehemence, than in the Bosom of this amazed Lover——He found 'twas true that the adorable Object of his Affections was not insensible of an amorous Inclination; but then he found also they were already devoted, devoted to a Prince, whose Property it was a kind of Treason to invade.——

Tho' there had not been time for her to reply in words to that tender Salutation with which THEODORE had accosted her, yet he easily perceiv'd by her manner of receiving it, as well as by the Air with which he spoke, that he was not a Lover in the state of Hope, but of Possession. He now experienced the Pangs which jealous Rage inflicts;

flits; and this Discovery being far from making any abatement in his Passion, what he endured, is scarce to be conceiv'd.

The natural Courage of his Sex, however, got at last the Victory over the meaner Emotions with which he had been agitated: —and no longer being possess'd by that Awe which had hitherto restrain'd him from declaring himself, he resolved to do it the first opportunity which should offer; and tho' almost hopeless of Success, imagin'd he should find some Ease in giving vent to the secret Anguish of his Soul. Being fixed in this Determination, he kept continually about the Court; and instead of visiting at the Prince's Apartment, as he was accustomed to do, he now paid all his Devoirs at that of the Princess. —There he every day saw ISMONDA, talk'd to her in general Conversation with other Ladies, but for a great while endeavour'd in vain the means of entertaining her alone. The Disappointment was indeed in great measure owing to himself; for ever since he had been sensible of her Amour with the Prince, he had taken less pains to conceal the Inclinations he had for her; no more with distant humble Reverence did he approach her, with fierce Desire his sparkling Eyes now blazed. — All his Discourse was on the Force of Love, and in her presence breathed nothing but the wanton God. —

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Not one who heard him but plainly saw the Agitations with which he was possess'd, and some there were, who wish'd themselves the occasion.—ISMONDA presently perceived the change of his Behaviour, and also that it was to her own Charms he owed this Transformation; but tho she was not without some share of that Vanity which is accounted inherent to the Sex, and could not be greatly disobliged at the Conquest she had made, yet she desir'd no other Confirmation of it, than what she received in publick: for which reason, she always carefully avoided being left alone with him, not doubting, by the freedom of his Carriage to her before all the Court, but that he would have Temerity enough, the first opportunity which presented itself, to declare in words that Passion which his speaking Looks had already sufficiently made her acquainted with. Whenever she met him in the Drawing-room, she either kept close to the Princess, or seem'd busy in discourse with some other Ladies; and when he came to visit her, was either deny'd, or receiv'd him in company, who she oblig'd to out-stay him: but nothing is impossible to the bold and daring; in spite of all her Caution, she was oblig'd, at last, to hear his Pretensions, and to hear him in a manner more alarming than she could have expected or imagin'd.—He went one
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Evening to her Apartment; and those Attendants who were generally waiting in the outward Rooms, and from whom he had sometimes received Answers, no way obliging to his Desires, happening to be all out of the way, he pass'd directly to that where she generally received those who came to visit her: but finding it entirely free from Company, went boldly through it into her Bed-chamber, where she was sitting in a careless posture with a Book in her hand, which she seem'd to be perusing with a great deal of attention. She saw him not at his first entrance, and it would have afforded him an infinite Satisfaction, to have stood observing her thus unperceiv'd by her, but the difficulty he had found to get an opportunity such as this, made him consider there was no time to be lost; and walking hastily up to her, May I presume, Madam, *said he*, to ask the Subject of your Entertainment? She blush'd and started at his unexpected Presence; but recovering herself immediately from the Confusion which the sight of him had involv'd her in, You seem in little need, my Lord, *reply'd she*, of an Apology for a Demand such as this, when you make none for entring my private Lodgings without permission, or even letting me know you intended me the honour of a Visit. She spoke these Words with an Air of so much resentment,

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ment, as left him no room to doubt she guess'd the purpose of his coming, and had been sufficient to have deterred a Lover less prepar'd with Resolution from proceeding further. Nor could all the Courage he had muster'd up for this Encounter, enable him to endure the Severity of her Looks, without being a little daunted; but re-assuring himself as much as possible, I have too often, *reply'd he*, been repulsed in my Desires of a private Interview, not to have experienced of how little service my Submissions are: I therefore now come arm'd with all the boldness of despairing Love, to tell you, that tho' your Cruelty should render me the most wretched of created Beings, it cannot have the power to lessen my Adoration of you, nor make me cease to demonstrate the Influence your Charms has o'er me, by all the ways which raging Passion can invent. 'Tis well, my Lord, *resumed she, with the most haughty Air she was able to put on*, and you think this fit Discourse for the Husband of BARSINA to the Wife of ADRASTUS? True, Madam, *answered he briskly*, we both are married, but I believe neither of us are ignorant enough to imagine that Ceremony a sufficient Bar to put a stop to the Effects of Inclination. When Heaven form'd an Angel like ISMONDA, *continued he, softning his Voice, and taking one of her Hands*

Hands in spite of her Efforts to hinder him, it design'd her not a private Blessing, an unrival'd Possession would be a Joy too mighty for mortal Man to bear; nor would almighty Wisdom have given you these Charms to blast a thousand Eyes, while one alone revels and basks in envy'd Enjoyment.——No, you were created for delight, born to receive and to confer it in the most sublime degree, and cannot, if you would, be cruel, where *Love* and *Merit* jointly plead for favour.——To the *latter* of these Requisites, I have indeed no title; but sure the abundance of the *former* may, in some part, atone for that Deficiency, and the other let your Compassion supply.——O ISMONDA! *cry'd he, throwing himself at once upon her Bosom*, I cannot live without you, the burning Passion of my impatient Soul no longer will brook Restraint.——I must have ease or die.——That she suffered him to proceed thus far uninterrupted, was owing only to that mixture of Surprize and Rage, which the unlook'd-for Presumption he was guilty of inflam'd her with, and for some moments stopp'd the utterance of her Words: she recover'd herself from the former but just timely enough to prevent him from taking any greater Liberties with her, than Modesty would admit; and the Violence of her Indignation giving her a lar-

ger share of Strength than ordinary, she unloosed herself from his Embrace, and starting from the place in which she had been sitting—How can you, dare you treat me in this manner? *said she*; O that ADRASTUS were here, and witness of the Affront!—She was able to bring out no more, but seem'd half suffocated with the rising Passions. The Absence of a Husband is indeed, *answered he*, no small Encouragement for a Lover; but perhaps his Presence might not at all times be so welcome as now. As he pronounced these Words, his very Eyes spoke Satyr, as well as his Tongue, and made ISMONDA know he had a secret meaning in them, which she wish'd, yet dreaded to discover: But concealing her Disorder as much as she could, It is not always so *necessary*, (*said she*;) Nor so *convenient*, (*rejoin'd he immediately*.) But to take part with ADRASTUS, is not the Business of ARIDANOR; as to accuse the Object of his Desires, would ill become a Lover. In speaking this, he turn'd hastily from her, as she thought with a design to leave the Room; but vastly different were his Intentions: he found there was little to be hoped for the gratification of his Passion by Entreaties; and thinking he had already done too much to be forgiven, resolv'd to make himself amends for the long Pains he had endured in the concealment of his Wishes,

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and also to revenge himself on a Coyneſs which he knew was not univerſal :—— and giving a ſudden Jump to the Door, made it ſaſt immediately, and return'd to ISMONDA and caught her in his Arms, before ſhe had time either to prevent him, or ring the Bell for any of her Attendants to come in. In vain were all her Strugglings, in vain her Menaces, he regarded not her Reproaches nor Remonſtrances; and though the higher roſe his amorous Rage, the more tempeſtuous her Indignation grew, he delay'd any Endeavours to abate it, till the Fury of his own ſhould be allay'd. She raved, ſhe tore, did all that Woman could: but alas! it was not in the power of her own Strength to ſave her, and ſhe was juſt on the point of falling a Victim to the Fierceneſs of his ungovernable Paſſion, when ſome Ladies coming to viſit her, LYSETTA her favourite Woman not knowing any body was in the Room with her, and imagining ſhe was fallen aſleep, knock'd pretty loudly at the Door: For Heaven's ſake, *cry'd* ISMONDA, *when ſhe heard it*, ſuffer me not to be expoſed——retire into my Cloſet for a moment, that it may not be known you have attempted me in this manner. ARIDANOR could not reſuſe giving her this Proof of his Reſpect, and went into his concealment, tho' not without ſome Curſes on

the Interruption ; which, however, he was resolv'd to repair, after the departure of those who had given it him. The disorder ISMONDA was in, made her little capable of receiving Company ; and tho' she rejoic'd it was no other Person than LYSETTA at the Door, yet was she vex'd, that having not given Orders to be deny'd, she was oblig'd to see these Ladies in this discomposure of her Temper. Setting herself in as much order as the time would admit, she went into her Drawing-room where her Guests impatiently expected her approach ; in the hurry of her Thoughts, forgetting to take the Key out of the Closet-door where ARIDANOR was hid.

LYSETTA stay'd not long in the Chamber after ISMONDA had left it, and one of the inferior Servants hapning to come in to look for something she had misplac'd, unluckily for her Lady's Reputation, went to search for it in that Closet ; she no sooner open'd the Door, than ARIDANOR thinking it was ISMONDA, bolted out upon her. The sight of a Man in that place, made her give a great Shriek, which alarming the Family, some of them ran up to know what had occasion'd it ; but before they cou'd get into the Chamber, ARIDANOR had Presence enough of mind to throw the Wench a Purse of Guineas, and bidding her be secret, withdrew into his Cell, and held the
Door

Door fast on the inside. Several Interrogatories being put to the Maid, who could not yet recover herself from the fright, she answer'd, that going to reach something from the Top of the Cabinet, a great Rat had jump'd down, and had occasion'd her crying out. No body suspecting the Truth of what she said, they all went away and left her; and as soon as ARIDANOR heard they were gone, he came out, and charging her that had discover'd him never to mention the least tittle of what she knew, either to any of the House, nor even to her Lady herself, added something more to the Present he had already made her, and going into his Concealment, desir'd she would lock the Door upon him as she had found it, and quit the Chamber before ISMONDA should return to it. She was too well paid not to be obedient to his Commands as far as was in her power; but how far that extended, as to the gift of Secrecy, will hereafter appear.

ISMONDA, who knew nothing of all this (having been in the Garden when the outcry was made) being impatient to get rid of her Company, complain'd of a violent Head-ach, and by that means oblig'd them to take leave much sooner than else 'tis probable they would have done: but when left alone, was very much at a loss by what means she should release her Prisoner, without letting

him be seen by the Servants, and consequently giving them to understand that he had been all this time conceal'd there. She found there was no possibility of doing it without the help of LYSETTA; to her, therefore, she communicated the whole Affair, bidding her send the Men on different Errands abroad, some one way, some another; and contrive some Business to employ the Women, that they might not come into the upper Apartments till ARIDANOR should be gone. LYSETTA, than whom no body could be more fit for the Trust repos'd in her, having done as she was order'd, return'd to her Lady, and let her know the Coast was clear, on which, having bid her wait in the next Room, thinking it not safe, as indeed she well might, to trust herself a second time with a Man, who had already prov'd, whatever his Professions of Adorations were, how little he regarded her Anger, she went into the Chamber and releas'd him; who had pass'd his Time pleasantly enough, flattering himself with the Thoughts, how dear he should, at his coming out, make his Fair Jaylor pay for his Confinement. But how great was his Disappointment, when the Door being open'd, at the same time that he saw ISMONDA, he saw her Woman also in an opposite Room; who, though not near enough to hear what was

was said between them, was not enough remov'd to give him any opportunity of acting in the manner he design'd. He was now, in spite of his resolves, oblig'd to have recourse to entreaties, and set forth the Violence of his Passion in such humble and persuasive Terms, that had not the most potent Prepossession that ever was, enabled her to resist his Importunities, ADRASTUS had been in no small danger of being injur'd the same way by ARIDANOR, as he had been by the Prince of *Caramania*. But that ever-present Idea kept her firm and immoveable by any other Charms or Sollicitations, and the little Inclination she had to hear him, join'd with the Apprehensions that he might possibly be known to have been there in private, made her express an Impatience for his leaving her Apartment, which sufficiently assur'd him, all the tender Arguments he cou'd urge, would be but thrown away. He resum'd, as his last hope, that boldness he had lately cast aside, and told her, that he was but too sensible her Cruelty to him sprung from other Reasons than those she was willing to confess, and that to his certain knowledge, there was a happy Man who triumph'd over his unavailing Pressures, and the Honour of ADRASTUS. This Reproach, confirming her in the Fears which some Hints he had before given her, that her Reputation was not altogether so

clear

clear as she had imagin'd, spread o'er her Face a visible Confusion : but willing to conceal it as much as possible, she answer'd him in Terms full of Resentment, telling him, that if he persisted to talk to her in that manner, she would complain to the Princess of the Affront. To the Prince you mean, Madam, *answer'd he*, it does indeed concern him to silence such Discourses ; nay, blush not, beautiful ISMONDA ! *continued he, perceiving her grow extremely red*, I have indeed attain'd that Secret, but be assur'd it never has escap'd, my Lips but to yourself, nor never shall, unless your continu'd Scorn should drive me mad, and render me incapable of considering what I owe to you, and to my Sovereign. In what a condition ISMONDA was at finding herself detected in a guilt which she believ'd conceal'd from all the World, and to find it known to him, who aim'd at making an advantage of the Discovery, so contrary to her Inclinations, to her Honour, to the Obligation she had to her belov'd THEODORE, let any one be judge, whose Strength of Imagination can enable them to put themselves in her Circumstances. At first, Surprise, and inward Vexation made her dumb ; but when she spoke, it was with such Asseverations of her Innocence, as had not his own Eyes and Ears been Evidences against the Truth of what she said, he would have given the
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lye to any other Proofs; but too well convinc'd of the certainty of his Misfortune, he let her know Denials were in vain, and gave her Hints too plain, for her not to understand him, that to assure his Secrecy she must confer on him some part of those Favours, she had bestow'd with so much profuseness on his Royal Rival: which, tho' she was far from promising, he had the Satisfaction to observe what he said, had a very great influence over her, and was not now without hope that her *Fear* might work that Effect in his favour, which her *Inclination* refus'd to do. Fain would he have taken the advantage which the Confusion of her Thoughts seem'd to afford him to compleat his Wishes; but all he could say, was ineffectual to persuade her to dispatch LYSETTA, who still continu'd in the next Room, which being separated from that in which they were only by a Glass-Door, gave her a full Prospect of all that pass'd; and finding that she requir'd only time for Consideration, and insisted on his leaving her as a Testimony of that Obedience she might expect from a Lover, he thought it best to comply with her Desires, and departed with a kind of an assur'd Expectation of being happy the next Visit he made; which, before he would be prevail'd on to quit the Room, he engaged her Promise should be the ensuing day.

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Never was a Mind involv'd in greater or more violent Perturbations than that of ISMONDA; it is impossible for any Woman to have a juster Sense of Reputation than had she, and the Apprehensions of what she might suffer that way from the Rage of a disappointed Lover, was worse than Death to her: yet resolute never to yield to what he desired, her hurrying Thoughts form'd sometimes one Scheme, and sometimes another for the Prevention of that so much dreaded Evil.——To acquaint his Wife with his attempt upon her, she consider'd would but incense him more, and provoke him to divulge that, which else, perhaps, his own Honour would oblige him to conceal; and to let the Prince know what had pass'd, she fear'd might occasion that passionate Lover to treat him in a manner which would make him understand she had betray'd him.—The more she reflected on the Consequences of revealing the Presumption he had been guilty of, the more dangerous it appear'd; and she found it best, on all accounts, to proceed with him only by fair means, and palliate the bitterness of her refusal by giving it him in the softest and most obliging Terms.

When, therefore, according to appointment, he came the next day, she arm'd herself, as much as possible, with Patience, to bear whatever Reflections Jealousy and disappointed Love might cast on her; and,
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perceiving, at his first Entrance, that he took it ill, she receiv'd him in a publick Room free to the access of as many as came to visit her, she doubted not, but when she had declar'd herself more fully, he would omit no Severities of Reproach which his Good-breeding would allow him to make : and hearing him beginning to complain of the little Inclination he found in her to oblige him, I will not deceive you my Lord, *said she* ; I confess your Merits are such as justly might expect to engage a more deserving Heart, but mine is prepossess'd already, taken up with an Idea which will admit no room for any other——I therefore beg, for your own ease and mine, you will desist the hopeless Prosecution, and think BARSINA only worthy your Desires, as you are the sole Object of hers. ARIDANOR, who was by Nature somewhat rash and fiery in all his Passions, could not endure any thing that look'd like an Admonition without returning it. The Merits of BARSINA, Madam, *answer'd he*, are not unknown to me, nor is Fame dumb in those ADRASTUS is possess'd of ; but since both of us have testify'd an Inclination to experience the Pleasures Variety affords, the Crime is not, I presume, less pardonable in ARIDANOR, than it is in ISMONDA, unless it can be prov'd, that the Charms of *Royalty* are superior to those of *Beauty* : Be at once, therefore, lovely Creature !

ture! *continu'd he*, kind and prudent, secure your Secret by binding to your Service the only Man who has it in his power to betray it, and blefs a Lover to whom you are more dear than Words can speak. You give but a very small Proof that I am so, *reply'd she, no longer able to contain herself*, when you would obtain that by *Menaces*, which you ought rather to attempt by *Persuasions*; but know, that I despise whatever Aspersions *Jealousy* may suggest, or *Malice* invent against my Honour; and dare believe, my Conduct has been such, as will render ineffectual all can be urg'd to blast it:——but were I guilty in the manner you seem to think, the imagin'd Partner of my Crime, methinks, should awe you into Silence, were you *assur'd* of what, at most, you but *suspect*. To practise that Prudence you would prescribe to me, you should consider that the Royal THEODORE is above the Fears either of *Rivalship*, or *Accusation*. The Vehemence and Spirit with which she utter'd these Words, and that Fire which sparkled in her Eyes all the time she was speaking, sufficiently denoted the inward Indignation of her Soul, and made him repent he had touch'd her in so nice a part; but all he could say afterwards, was in vain to pacify her, she look'd not on him but with reluctance and disdain, and having several times forbid him ever to speak to her
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on the unwelcome Theme of his Passion, took her leave of him with a constrain'd Civility, and went into another Room, leaving him alone to murmur at the ill success of his Designs.

'Tis certain that nothing could exceed the Vexation he was in at this disappointment of his high-rais'd Expectations; but notwithstanding the Treatment he had received from her, and that firm Resolution with which she expressed herself, 'tis probable he had not yet given over the vain pursuit, had not Fortune sent her a deliverance from his Persecutions by a way she little thought of.

Rage and Despair rendring him unfit for Company, or Conversation, when he left the Apartment of ISMONDA, he went to indulge his Discontents in the Gardens of the Palace, it being a time of day in which the Walks were generally empty; but finding more Persons there than he expected, the present Melancholy of his Disposition led him into the Wilderness, where having wander'd some time thro' the thickest part of it, he thought he heard Womens Voices at a little distance from him. The Perturbations he was in, not having quite extinguish'd Curiosity, he drew nearer the Place whence the Sound proceeded, and continued moving with a soft and slow Pace, till he came so close to the Grotto where they were sitting,

ting, that he could distinctly hear not only the Words of her that spoke, but also the very Sighs with which the other listned to her Discourse. I cannot imagine, *said one of them*, wherefore you trusted me with the secret of your Passion, unless it were either with an Intent that I should assist you in the gratification of it; or strengthen your Resolution with some Arguments to enable you to overcome it: the one neither my Honour, nor my Character in the World will permit me to do; and the other, I am afraid, will be impossible to accomplish.——When Love once settles itself in a Heart so young as yours for a deserving Object, how vain are the Efforts of Reason to expel it!——The first Impression is not without the greatest difficulty erased; and it seems like tearing part of the Soul with it, when one but goes about to drive it thence. Ah! my dear Cousin, *replied the other*, how often have I experienced the Pangs you speak of! Nor had I own'd the Folly as well as Guilt of my unhappy Flame, but that it grew too mighty for restraint, and from your tender Friendship hoped to find some pity.——Too well, alas! I am convinced that till I cease to live, I cannot cease to love; and Heaven knows wou'd sooner chuse to die, than purchase Bliss with loss of Honour. Flatter not yourself, *resumed she that had spoken first*,
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my lov'd ELARIA! with such romantick Notions; if Virtue is too weak to keep you from Desire, she will not have the power to defend you from gratifying that Desire, when once the Means are offer'd. — You know not yet what 'tis to love, and have the darling Object of your fond Affection kneel at your Feet, breathing soft Vows of everlasting Truth, eternal Ardors; — then, with sweet Violence, seize your resisting Hand, and press it to his Breast, which in tumultuous heavings confirms the language of his Tongue; — with wild Impatience, and Longings untameable, at last made bold, rise to your Bosom, with burning Kisses melt your Resolves, and — O hold! *cry'd the dissolving Languisher, interrupting her*, I cannot bear the rapturous Description! Too many Charms the dangerous *Idea* yields, what then would the *Reality* afford! — Oh, should I ever see the godlike ARIDANOR thus, what would indeed become of me!

That this must be a Surprise prodigiously agreeable to any Man, to find himself the Author of so sincere and ardent a Passion in the Heart of a young Maid, for whom a thousand noble Youths were dying, the most temperate of the Sex cannot but confess. With what Emotions then did the Breast of ARIDANOR swell at this discovery? As much in love as he had been with

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ISMONDA,

ISMONDA, the improbability there now appear'd of gaining her, the Disdain with which he had been treated by her, and that changing Disposition which is almost inherent to the Nature of Mankind, all join'd together to make way for the new Impression of ELARIA's Charms ; and he hesitated not a moment if he should not, the first opportunity, act that part which her experienc'd Confidante had so lively represented. The two Ladies had some further Conversation ; but he fearing to be discover'd to have been list'ning, and by that means put the young ELARIA more on her guard ; and also thinking he had heard enough to know how to proceed for the satisfaction of those Desires she had acknowledged, and which he too now felt, he withdrew with the same Caution with which he had advanced, and was got quite out of the Wilderness before they had any design of leaving it.

Never was there a more pleasing Cure for an unavailing and hopeless Passion, than that which ARIDANOR found in his for ISMONDA, in the love of ELARIA : She was extremely young and beautiful ; and by that Conversation which gave him the knowledge of her Wishes, he found her Soul as tender and amorous as he could desire, in the Woman he made choice of for a Mistress ; and doubted not but in
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her Enjoyment, he should find those Joys which are never to be tasted but where mutual Warmth excites the enamour'd Pair. No difficulties appear'd to threaten him with opposition, or even delays in this Pursuit. Inclination had already done his work ; her Heart was his ; and Assiduities, distant Homage, Vows, Sighs, Tears, Cries, Imprecations, and all the first Artillery of Love, were needless ; and he had no more to combat with, than the faint strugglings of Virgin Bashfulness, to become master of her *Body* as he was of her *Soul*. Nor was it hard to find an opportunity for the accomplishment of this design : She was continually at Court, her Father, the Chevalier ORSAMES, having a great Place under the Prince, had an ambition of preferring her, who was his only Daughter, to the Service of the Princess, in quality of one of those young Ladies who make her Train, whenever she appears in Publick, are under her immediate Care, and receive no other Salary for their Attendance, than the Honour of being permitted to give it : but there being only a certain number of them allowed, she was obliged to wait till a Vacancy arrived, either by the Marriage or Death of one of those who were already entertained. This Hope, together with her secret Passion for ARIDANOR, made her seldom from a Place which gave her the op-

portunity of indulging her Wishes with the sight of him who was so dear to her, and at the same time of forwarding her Interest.

Having dress'd himself with the utmost care and exactness, he went the next day to the Drawing-room of the Princess; and having paid the usual Compliments to her, threw his Eyes o'er the Circle in search of ELARIA; who, till he appear'd, thinking nothing worthy her Attention, had retir'd to a Corner-window, which happening to be open, she was looking out, 'tis probable rather to avoid being engaged in Conversation by those within, than that she found any Diversion in the Objects which presented themselves from without.—How natural is it (*said he, stepping to her, and leaning over her, as she was stooping to the Window*) for us to know our own Perfections! The sweet ELARIA, conscious of her power of pleasing, and secure of the Admiration of as many as have the blessing of her Acquaintance, neglects the Hearts she holds in Chains, and sends her Charms abroad in search of more.—Else, why are those Eyes withdrawn, to whose attractive Graces the Royal Presence is indebted for some part, I am certain, of this Assembly, who come in *shew* to pay their Homage there, but in *reality* devote it only here.—The Confusion of ELARIA was so great, to find the Object of her Affections

fections so near her, (for she saw him not come into the Room) and at receiving this unexpected Compliment from him, that for some moments she could answer him no otherwise than by Blushes ; but endeavouring to overcome it as much as possible,— I am too inconsiderable, my Lord, *said she*, to have enough of these fine things said to me, to be able to return them in the manner you may expect ; and must pardon me, if I express some Surprise, that, among so great a number of Beauties, who also are expert in those Turns of Wit and Raillery you Men of Gallantry so much delight in ; you should chuse to divert yourself with an unexperienced Maid, who has passed the most parts of those Years she owes to Nature in a Rural Life, remote from Courts, and ignorant of the politer World. To testify, Madam, *replied he*, how little I deserve that you should think my words had any other meaning, than the sincerest Dictates of an enamour'd Soul ; as also to prove the Opinion I have of your good Judgment, never will I address you by those Methods which ordinarily work their desired Effect on the vainer part of your Sex. I consider ELARIA as much beyond the rest of Womankind in Prudence, as she is in Beauty, and will endeavour to convince her of my Adoration only by such means as shall be consistent with the nicest Decorum, and of no prejudice to Reputation ; which I con-

feels, indeed, our Ladies seem a little too negligent in preserving. Happily for her to whom in the present Emotions of her Soul it had been impossible to have continued this Discourse, without confirming him in what he was already but too well acquainted with, some Ladies with ERNESTUS came to the place where they were ; and the Conversation growing general, deliver'd her at that time from giving any demonstrations of a Passion, she desired nothing more of Heaven, than to enable her to conceal.

Having thus broke the ice, he omitted no opportunities of talking to her, which he could take, without rendring the Deference he paid her liable to observation. The Court is never without a great number of Ladies, who, either thro' Malice or Curiosity, make it their business to pry into the Motives which induce People to particular Conversations ; and tho' the love of Variety inclin'd him to seek in other Embraces those Joys which the unrestrain'd possession of BARSINA no longer yielded, he yet had Tenderness enough for her to forbear giving her any Demonstrations of his Change ; and for that Reason, as well as the Promise he had made ELARIA, of never doing any thing which might prejudice her Character, he entertain'd her not but at such times as it might not appear he had any design in it.

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But as if the pursuit of this Adventure was not sufficient to take up his Thoughts, and entirely erase all the Remainders of his old Passion for ISMONDA, another offer'd itself to him, which afforded him no less Surprize, and was not also without its share of Pleasure.

ZELINDA, a distant Relation of ELARIA, and the same whom she had made the Confidante of her secret Passion, when he overheard them in the Wilderness, was a young Lady of an uncommon Gaiety of Humour: she had been lately married to a Nobleman of very great Possessions; but the Character of a Wife restrain'd her not from indulging herself in all those Liberties she enjoy'd when in a state which render'd her Actions accountable to none but her own Conscience. She had for a considerable time made such Advances to ARIDANOR, as he could impute to nothing but a secret liking of his Person. The Inclinations he then had for ISMONDA, kept him, however, from taking any great notice of her Behaviour; and the Conversation between her and ELARIA afterwards, made him imagine the desire she seem'd to have of engaging him, was only on the score of that fair Friend: till one day happening to be in a little Room joining to that in which the Princess kept her State, laughing with some Ladies, who had withdrawn for a little Re-

laxation of that grave Formality they were oblig'd to wear in the Royal Presence, ZELINDA came in; and giving him a little Blow on the Shoulder with her Fan, Where shall one expect to find ARIDANOR, *said she*, but where there is the greatest Concourse of Beauties?— But I am resolv'd to try how far your Complaisance will extend, when at war with your Inclination. — You must pass some part of this Evening at *Ombre* with me and another Lady as far from handsome as myself, without any other Temptation in the World, but the hope of winning our Money. — What say you, my Lord! *continued she, plucking him by the Arm after her free manner*, dare you accept the Challenge? or cannot your Good-breeding furnish you with Arms to resist the more potent Excitements of your Desires to be in another place? In some Cases, Madam! *reply'd he gallantly*, what passes for *Cowardice*, is really *Discretion*; and if that other Lady should be like ZELINDA, a Heart susceptible of Passion, and hopeless of succeeding, might well seek Evasions to avoid so dangerous an Encounter. — But since it is impossible for two Objects, tho' equally charming, at the same *Time* to work the same *Effect*, I am apprehensive of being no further enslav'd than I already am, and with Pride and Pleasure accept the honour
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of your Summons. At five, *said she*, I shall expect you, the Rendezvous is to be at my Apartment; and because we are resolved to have you to ourselves, I will order my People to deny admittance to all impertinent Interrupters. The greater Privacy; the more Contentment, Madam, *answered he*; you may depend on my Obedience and Impatience for the happy Hour. There pass'd no more between them; having made this Appointment, she turn'd upon her heel, and went out of the Room, with the same gay Air with which she had enter'd it. ARIDANOR spent not much time in guessing who the other Lady should be she spoke of; he doubted not but it was ELARIA, who, no longer able to contain the long-smother'd Passion of her Soul, had prevail'd on the Good-nature of her Cousin, to take this Method of bringing them together, without plainly demonstrating the Design of her own. He intended to have told that Lady of the Invitation he had receiv'd from ZELINDA, and that it was his hope, as well as his desire, that the third Person, who was to compleat the Set, was no other than herself: but the Drawing-room being extremely full of Company, and BARSINA one of the Number who compos'd it, he forbore entering into any Conversation with her that day.

The

The Hour being arriv'd in which he was to go to ZELINDA's; he waited not till the striking of a second Clock should remind him his Presence was expected: but rather preventing than exceeding the time prefixed, he went full of Contemplations on what the Issue of this Visit would be; but little conjecturing the Truth, or in the least imagining the purpose for which he was invited.

I told you, *said she to him, as soon as the first Salutations were over*, that I had an intent to punish you; but little did I think the Mortification would have been so severe as now it happens.——The Lady who had promis'd to make one at *Ombre*, has just now sent word she cannot come, and you will be constrain'd either to pass your time with one who has it not in her power to do any thing to make herself agreeable to you, or acknowledge, by some faint Excuse for leaving me, that you had not come, but for the hope of being more pleasingly entertain'd. If any body suffers by this Accident, *answered he*, it can be only yourself.——I am too sensible of the Blessing of being admitted to a private Conversation with a Lady of your Beauty and Accomplishments, to be able to part with it without the utmost Regret.——I am afraid my Inclination will, in spite of me, get the better of Good-manners, and you will be

be compell'd more than once to look upon your Watch, and remind me it grows late, before you get rid of your Guest. I expected no less than this, *resumed she*, from the well-known Gallantry of ARIDANOR; but to which-ever of these Motives, your Inclination, or Good-manners, I am indebted for your stay, I ought to make it as agreeable as I can: and since the design of your coming was play, what think you of a Game at *Piquet*? To which he having agreed, Cards were immediately brought in by her Woman, who no sooner had set the Table, than she immediately withdrew, shutting the Door after her.

They continued playing a considerable time, but ZELINDA play'd the Game so ill, that it might easily be perceiv'd her Thoughts were employ'd a different way. ARIDANOR also had his Cogitations, nor well knew how to form a Judgment of her Behaviour; but he remain'd not long in this Dilemma: she threw the Cards out of her Hand on a sudden, and affecting to start at something which just then came into her Head——Bless me! *cry'd she*, what will my Servants think that I have order'd myself to be deny'd to all the World, while I am lock'd up in private with the most agreeable of his Sex!——These Words opening his Eyes, he wonder'd at himself that he had so long been dull; and by her
Example,

Example, laying aside the Cards, Did the divine ZELINDA think me so, *said he*, we might have employ'd our time much better than in this insipid Diversion. — But it is not yet too late, *continued he*, drawing his Chair near to hers, to repair what we have lost — the future Moments may atone for the omission we have been guilty of in the past. — How strangely you talk, *resumed she*, is it impossible for ARIDANOR to be alone with a Woman, who is young, and accounted tolerably agreeable, without having such odd Fancies in his Head? Whatever may be possible to me, *reply'd he*, I am sure it is not for the enchanting ZELINDA to be seen by any Man, without creating in him a Desire of being alone with her. Well, *said she*, it must be confess'd, that you have the best turn of Raillery of any Man about Court. — But prithee let's be serious, or else to Cards again. As much in earnest as you please, Madam! *rejoin'd he*, taking her in his Arms, and beginning to treat her with some Familiarities, which gave her indeed no room to doubt she had been disappointed in her Expectations. Heavens! *cry'd she*, with an Air of Astonishment, and making some few faint Efforts to disingage herself, what is it you mean to do? — But I see what encourages you — you know well enough my Husband is out of town —
that

that all my Servants are out of hearing—
 that my Bed-Chamber is in the very next
 Room——that I am but a weak Woman,
 and that you are the most engaging Crea-
 ture that ever was born——but if ever I
 give you such an Opportunity again——
 It shall be my fault if I make not the best
 use of this, *said he, redoubling the Free-
 doms he had already began with her*: and
 by this time fired with that Passion, which
 is often mistaken for Love, and is ordina-
 rily more successful, he bore her to the
 Chamber, to which, by forbidding, she in-
 vited him, and for some Moments lost all
 remembrance of both ISMONDA and ELA-
 RIA.

Tho' this Amour was too sudden to af-
 ford much Delicacy, yet as ZELINDA was
 a very lovely Woman, and of a humour
 prodigiously entertaining, it was not only to
 oblige her, that ARIDANOR resolved to con-
 tinue a Correspondence with her of the
 same kind he had begun, nor were his
 Transports feigned, or the Protestations he
 made her of an eternal Gratitude wholly
 composed of Deceit. In the midst of their
 Endearments, she also threw off her Affec-
 tation, confess'd she had long languished
 for him with an unspeakable Desire; that
 she had appointed him to come with no
 other view, than to try how far he liked
 her; naturally concluding, that if he thought
 her

her worthy his Addressees, he would not neglect so favourable an opportunity of making them. They parted not till it was very late, nor without mutual Assurances of frequently renewing those Delights, with which neither of them as yet were satiated.

This Darling of the Fair, the happy ARIDANOR, past the remainder of the Night in Contemplations perfectly pleasing : to be beloved by two such Women as ELARIA and ZELINDA, was sufficient to gratify the Vanity of any Man, and tho the Method the latter of them had taken to engage him, had something in it very extraordinary, yet imputing it to the Violence of her Passion, it did not in the least abate his Esteem of her.

Yet could not this Intrigue justly bear any other Name than that of an Amusement ; it engross'd not the Soul, it chas'd no other Ideas thence ; it was enough, that when they were together, that each was the sole Object of the other's Affections ; apart they had different Sentiments, and the free Mind disdaining all restraint, refus'd admittance to no pleasing Image. One thing, however, ARIDANOR took care of, which was never to engage ELARIA in a particular Conversation when ZELINDA was present ; fearing with reason, that the Jealousy of that Lady once alarm'd, might make her take some Steps which might put a stop to the Gratification of his Desires on this young Beauty.

Nor

Nor was he without apprehensions, that all his caution in this Affair might be in vain; he knew how far the innocent Languisher had already betray'd herself to her, and it was highly probable that the next time they were alone together, she would also make her acquainted with the Declarations he had made to her; for which reason he kept them, as much as possible, asunder, by engaging either the one or the other in Appointments with himself. As yet no opportunity had offer'd, in which he could take those advantages the Passion of ELARIA had given him over her; and this Affair, which from the knowledge of her Sentiments threatned so little difficulty in accomplishing, he found infinitely more hard than he could have imagin'd. He was often alone with her indeed, but then it was only in such places as gave him no assurance he should not meet with an Interruption. She had no Apartment, as yet, assign'd her in the Palace, and to visit her at her Father's House, would have been far from advancing his Designs; to entreat her to accompany him to any place of privacy, he thought would too plainly let her into his Reasons for such a Request, and give a Shock to her Modesty, which would enable her to *refuse*, tho' her Wishes should with the utmost arduency prompt her to *grant*.——Long was he debating within himself what course
to

to take, and had till now, pethaps, been undetermin'd, had Chance not interpos'd, and put a period to the Contest.

As he was one day in the Apartment of HYANTHE, he heard that Princess call for EURIDICE, who was then walking in the Gardens of the Palace with ELARIA; he happen'd to see them as he was looking out of the Window, and immediately made an Errand down to tell her, that her attendance was required; on which, she hastily taking leave of ELARIA, that intended Victim of his amorous Flames was left alone with him. It presently came into his Head, to make that place in which he first receiv'd the knowledge of her Love, the Scene of his accomplishing it, and entertaining her with discourses too pleasing to her Wishes for her to break them off, she was insensibly led to the Gate which open'd into the Wilderness; which he pushing back with his Hand in order to go in, her good Angel, that moment, warning her of the Danger to which she was about to be expos'd, Let us turn back, my Lord, *said she*, the wild Solitude of this place has nothing agreeable in it.— Yet it was here, Madam! *answer'd he*, that I receiv'd that Inspiration which makes all my Merit — 'twas here the God of Love first show'd me what his Power could do— Permit me to conduct you, and I will show you that very spot of Earth whence came the bliss-

blissful Arrow which fix'd me ever yours. It was not in the power of ELARIA to comprehend the Mystery of these Words, and while she was pausing on the meaning of them, he took her by the Hand and drew her into that Retirement, which seem'd, indeed, design'd by Nature for an Amorous Rendezvous.—On the still rising Camomile no Tracks appear'd to guide observance on the wanderer's Steps, and the close meeting Trees deny'd access even to the Eye of PHOEBUS; a thousand little Grots on every side, arch'd o'er with mingling Boughs, invited to repose within their sweet recess. Can any thing, said ARIDANOR, be more indulging to the Mind than this delightful Shade?—How could I here lie down, forgetful of the World, its Cares, its noisy Pleasures, and quite dissolv'd and ravish'd in the Contemplation of ELARIA's Charms, enjoy, in Theory, such Raptures as only she herself could add to. Let any Woman who has experienc'd the force of Love, consider and pity the Confusion of this unhappy Maid, divided between Fear and soft Desire, struggling with all her might to smother both, yet both apparent to the watchful Lover.—He took no advantage however of what he saw, nor press'd her in any manner which could alarm her Modesty, till they came to that Thicket where he had overheard her Conversation with

ZELINDA——but then catching her at once in his Arms, and ravishing ten thousand Kisses from her trembling Lips in the few Steps he had to carry her, he bore her to the inmost and most dark part of the Grot, before, in the surprize this sudden alteration of his Behaviour involv'd her in, she had the power of making use of any Arguments or Persuasions to oblige him to desist.——'Twas here, *said he*, that Passion first took birth from Hope, and here shall Hope expire in sure Possession, and Passion receive its due Reward.——These Words were accompany'd by Actions suited to the meaning of them.——At first she had not the power of entreating, and soon it was too late ; the resolute ARIDANOR let her know what 'twas he aim'd at, and accomplish'd it almost at the same time.——So immediate was her Ruin, that before she cou'd think by what means she might avert it, there was no more to fear——it was not now in Prayers, in Menaces, in Artifices, nor even Heaven itself to save her ; the fatal Deed was done, the cruel Transport over, irrevocable Time not Destiny can recall, or make what has been, to have never been :——In floods of Tears her struggling Griefs sought ease, and virtuous Resentment fain would have found vent in keen Reproaches, but more mighty Love here interpos'd, new form'd her Words, and what was design'd
for

for Fury, express'd only Tenderneſs; and all that her utmoſt Efforts could bring forth of upbraidings, was only, Oh ARIDANOR! too lovely cruel ARIDANOR, why have you undone me? And then immediately after, teſtifying that the fears of his future Unkindneſs were more terrible than the preſent ruin of her Honour; You will not love me always, *would ſhe cry.*——It is not to be ſuppos'd that ſuch a Man as ARIDANOR was wanting in his endeavours to make her ſatisfy'd with what had paſs'd between them, nor that loving to that infinite degree ſhe did, thoſe endeavours were altogether unſucceſſful. A Perſon truly inspir'd with a great Paſſion, never wonders at, nor can condemn the Exceſs of it in another; and tho' thoſe Deſires with which the Soul of ARIDANOR was poſſeſs'd for the Enjoyment of ELARIA, were not of that kind which may juſtly bear the denomination of a perfect Tenderneſs, yet as he had always diſguiſ'd them in ſo artful a manner, as could make her believe them to be no otherwiſe, it was the ſame thing to her, and work'd the ſame effect as if in reality. At length, won over by his Arguments to think Obedience to the Laws of Nature no Crime but in Imagination, ſhe yielded to renew'd Endearments, and met the guilty Joy with equal Warmth and Tranſports inconceivable. Being ask'd by her, if her Couſin had be-

tray'd the Secret of her Passion to him, and by that breach of Trust encourag'd him to make an attempt of the kind he had done; he assur'd her that she had not, and very frankly confess'd in what manner the knowledge of her Sentiments had reach'd his Ears. But tho, in justice to ZELINDA, he clear'd her of this imagin'd Infidelity, he gave ELARIA some hints, that it would not be prudent to make her any further a Confidante in the Affair.

With how much ease do Men, when once they go about it, banish an Idea they have been the most violently charm'd with! It is most certain, that ARIDANOR had felt for ISMONDA more than ever was in the power of either ZELINDA or ELARIA to inspire; yet that being a hopeless Passion, in giving way to these Amusements, he found that ease which a Woman, in the like Circumstances, can seldom, if ever, arrive at, till Death at once puts a period to her Love and her Desires. He divided all those hours which he could borrow from the Business of the State, or his own domestick Affairs, between these two Ladies, and for some time manag'd the Intrigue with both so well, that neither of them had the least Suspicion that she had a Rival in the other.

But while he was thus endeavouring to forget ISMONDA, he obtain'd the Character of being as happy with her, as his utmost
 Hopes

Hopes had once flatter'd him he should be :
 That Servant-Maid who had discover'd him
 in the Clofet, found the Secret too mighty
 for her Capacity to contain ; she cou'd not
 forbear whispering it to some of her Com-
 panions, who happening to be of the same
 Disposition, reveal'd it to as many more ;
 those imparted it to others, and so on, till
 it became the common talk of all the inferior
 Courtiers, and from them rose gradually to
 the Ears of the Great ones. The Favour
 she was in with the Princess, her Beauty, and
 the Grandeur in which she liv'd, exposing
 her to the Envy of the less Fortunate, she
 wanted not a great number of those who
 were glad of this occasion to blast her
 Fame. BARSINA, scap'd not the News, and
 having of late perceiv'd a more than ordina-
 ry coldness in her Husband, too readily,
 for her Peace of Mind, gave credit to it.
 The Princess was the only Person who dis-
 believ'd it ; she knew that ISMONDA had
 ever behaved herself with an exemplary
 Discretion and Modesty in the *Anatolian*
 Court, and could not think she had de-
 serv'd any other Character in *Caramania* ;
 however, she intended to speak to her of it
 the first time she had an opportunity.

But what became of the enamour'd THE-
 ODORE at this Report ! Never before had
 he experienc'd the Pangs of jealous Rage,
 and unable to endure the first Emotions of

it, he was going to her Apartment to reproach her in such terms as he thought her Inconstancy merited from him ; but as he was crossing a Gallery, which parted his side from that of the Princess's Women, he met DORASPE, who throwing himself at his feet, conjured him to vouchsafe a private hearing of something which he had to communicate. The Melancholy which appear'd in his Looks, and the Earnestness with which he spoke, making it evident that something very extraordinary had happen'd, obliged the Prince to turn back ; and as soon as they were together in his private Closet, Oh, my royal Lord, *said that perplexed Nobleman*, never was a Mind tortured with an Anguish superior to mine. Cross'd in my Love, and wounded in my Honour——IRENE, forgetful to what she owes her Birth, has, in a mean Disguise, forsook our Mother's House, and is retir'd where search has yet been vain.——A Letter which she left behind her Toyler, would persuade us the occasion of her flight was only lest I should compel her to a Marriage with ERNESTUS, but the whole Country ascribes a different and more shameful Cause. Some late Disorders have been observed in her, which the Skilful will have to be the Effects of Pregnancy; and much I fear she has too much depended on her Contract with MARMILLIO.——Contented
should

should I be, if only she, who caused this Disgrace, were to endure the Infamy ; but a Misfortune of this kind, reflects on all the Family of the Wretch so abandon'd, but most on me, as nearest in Blood, and once too in Affection.——Nor am I, *added he*, in loss of Honour only curs'd, ARBANCES but this moment told me, that without I could prevail on IRENE to become the Bride of ERNESTUS, I must quit all hope of EURIDICE.—— There is something so very probable, *replied the Prince*, in the justice of the former part of your Fears, that I have nothing to offer for your Consolation ; but that whatever Faults she may have been guilty of, she cannot so far demean herself, as not to add to the Honour of ERNESTUS, by becoming his Wife : you need not doubt, but that should even the knowledge of it reach his ears, he will still continue his Assiduities. And one thing, methinks, seems to forward your hopes, which is, that humbled by this Misfortune, she will no longer be refractory to your Desires. I would advise you, therefore, to be as secret as possible in the Affair ; and while you press for the confirmation of your Happiness with EURIDICE, still keep their Expectations warm with the hope of IRENE : Feign some plausible Excuse for her remaining so long in the Country ; and let them think she but delays, not denies what

you require. DORASPE, whose Mind was full of inward Vexation, would fain have engaged him in a longer Conversation, but the Prince was not at this time in a fit state of humour to enter into long Discourses ; and pretending business, dismissed him from his presence, with telling him, he would talk further with him at some other opportunity.

But his impatience of speaking to ISMONDA, being disappointed by her being not at her Apartment, when he went, Recollection represented to him, that it was best not to accuse her, till he could do it in milder terms than as yet his Rage would give him leave to do. He consider'd that there was a possibility she might be wronged ; and if so, he knew very well the greatness of her Spirit would not easily forgive an unjust Suspicion, especially when declared with Ill-manners. He therefore resolved not to see her in private, till he had enough become master of himself to talk to her with moderation ; and that what he said might appear rather as the effects of those tender Doubts which are almost inseparable from Love, than as the dictates of a jealous Resentment, and a Passion which look'd on itself as ill treated and deceiv'd.

The End of the Third Part.

P A R T



P A R T IV.



WHILE the Prince of CARAMANIA was labouring under the worst Torments of the Mind, his unjustly suspected Mistress was rejoicing to find herself eas'd of the Persecutions of his Rival. She had observ'd the Freedoms which of late had pass'd between him and ZELINDA; and being perfectly acquainted with that Lady's Disposition to Intrigue, did not doubt but that ARIDANOR had found the secret to please her. She was, however, prodigiously surprized to hear the Prince had been to visit her; it not being his Custom to come to her Apartment without sending before, to inform her of it.—LYSETTA had told her, that she perceived an unusual Gloom upon his Brow, and that he express'd the utmost discontent at not meeting her at home. She also saw him the same Evening at the Princess's Apartment; and as Lovers easily understand the

the Humour of each other, by their Eyes, she thought she discover'd something in his, that she was unacquainted with ; and a certain Coldness and forced Civility in all his Behaviour, the meaning of which she could not comprehend : and being far from guessing the truth, imputed the change of his Countenance to the change of his Affections. Perceiving him the same the next day when she saw him again, she made no doubt but that the Charms of some new Beauty had triumph'd over the Gratitude he ow'd her, and began in secret to curse the mutability of the Heart of Man. Heartily did she wish for MARMILLIO, whose counsel, and perfect knowledge of the Humour of his Prince, she imagin'd might have led her through this Labyrinth, which at present seem'd so perplexing to her ; and having no body to whom she could impart her Sentiments on this occasion, suffer'd little less than the jealous and impatient THEODORE.

In the mean time, the occasion of their mutual Disquiets was not perfectly at ease ; whilst Love was show'ring on him his choicest Blessings in favour of the Fair, the wanton God prepared for him Perplexities at home, which almost countervail'd the Pleasures he enjoy'd abroad. He had a Brother whose Disposition was no less amorous than his own ; he was also every way as well qua-

qualified for Success ; seldom had he sigh'd in vain ; and wheresoever he carried his Addresses, the only certain way of depriving them of their wonted Force, was not to hear them. BARSINA, who had experienced the Advantages a lovely Woman has by being seen at Court ; where Beauty appears more splendid and illustrious than it can do in any other Place, sent for a young Sister, who had more than a moderate share of Charms, hoping that they might have the same effect on some Great Man, as those she was mistress of, had work'd on ARIDANOR. ALMIRA, for that was her Name, was indeed so perfectly compleat, that she no sooner appear'd, adorn'd and set forth with all the Advantages of Dress and Grandeur, than she attracted the Eyes of the whole Assembly : A thousand aching Hearts avow'd her Triumph, a thousand Stratagems were immediately forming ; and some too suggested by Honour, for the ingaging this new, and dazling Beauty. But none was there on whom her Charms had greater influence, than on the Heart of IDOMEUS, the Brother of ARIDANOR : He no sooner saw her, than he became enamour'd with her ; and no sooner felt the Emotions of that Passion, than he set his whole Wits at work for the gratification of it. He had a thousand Opportunities, which the rest of her Admirers wanted ; she was lodg'd in his Brother's Palace,

lace, was the Sister of BARSINA ; and by that kind of relative Obligation, might take many Liberties with her, which from another would create suspicion, and be look'd on as too presuming. Without seeming therefore to make Love, he made it in the most effectual manner; and all that he did, passing for no more than the Complaisance which was owing from him to the Sister of his Elder Brother's Wife, he was omitted in the Cautions given her how to behave to the others who declared themselves her Lovers; and he found the means to steal himself into her Affections, as though without design.—— She was young, unexperienced in the Artifices of Love, and unknowing of the Snare laid for her, fell into it with as much ease as the watchful Ruiner could wish.—— Being, in a manner, one of the Family, he never wanted free access to her Chamber; was frequently alone with her; would sometimes pass many hours with her in reading; playing on the Musick, in which he was an admirable Proficient; or in telling her the Court-news. The mutual liking which both testified of the other's Company, was ascribed by BARSINA only to a conformity in their Humours; and ARIDANOR, who better knew his Brother's Constitution, was at this time too much engaged in his own Amours, to observe that which was carrying on between them.

them. Repeated Opportunities, and a certain Languishment in the Eyes of the fair ALMIRA, which she had not the artifice to conceal, at length embolden'd the impatient Lover to endeavour the accomplishment of his desires. And one day, when BARSINA was abroad, he took the advantage of being alone with her, and at once attempted and attain'd all that he wish'd, or hoped to enjoy. So swift the pleasing Ruin came, she had not time to *know*, much less to *avert* the Danger; and when compleated, could not be recall'd.

The difficulty of a Lover is to *obtain*; his Point once gain'd, 'tis easy to maintain his Power; and rarely, if ever, does that Woman, who has yielded through Inclination, repent so far of what she has done, as not to suffer the dear Youth to repeat those Joys by which she was at first abandon'd to the soft Perdition. IDOMEUS and ALMIRA, unfearing Satiety, and thinking themselves secure from all Discovery and Blame, indulg'd their mutual Flames to all the wild excess of guilty Rapture.——IDOMEUS, notwithstanding the natural Inconstancy of his Disposition, confess'd Delights in this young Beauty's Arms, which for a time engaged him wholly hers; and to the ravish'd Soul of fond ALMIRA, he seem'd more than mortal.——Each seem'd to vye with the other which should exceed in Passion,

sion, and most dissolve in criminal Desire. — But this was but for a time : Soon the sweetness of their too extravagant Bliss, was to be imbitter'd. ALMIRA found herself with child ; and by communicating the knowledge of this Misfortune to her Lover, perceived she had not only the Melancholy, and, if divulg'd, *Shame* of her Condition to sustain, but also, that the Author of it seem'd rather more uneasy for himself than her. He talk'd of nothing but the Displeasure of ARIDANOR, and the Reproaches of BARSINA, and seem'd more to upbraid than pity the Effect of their once fervent Love. It is needless to say how terrible a shock this must be to a Woman, who, in such a Circumstance expects Consolation only ; and certainly deserves it from the Man to whose fatal and undoing Artifices she is indebted for her approaching Misery. 'Tis easy to imagine she felt all that Ingratitude, and Tenderneſs abused could inflict ; yet would not the Mildneſs of her Nature suffer her to say any thing which could be called severe : but, when he desired, that both for his and her own sake she would keep it ſecret, Alas ! *cry'd ſhe*, are Impoſſibilities to be expected from me ? — Am I not in the Houſe with my Siſter, from whoſe penetrating Judgment I might as well hope to blind the Eye of Heaven, as hide it long. — And when, or how can I

re-

remove? What pretence have I for leaving her? Or, if I could invent one, to whom should I apply? I have no Acquaintance here, no Bosom-Friend, to whom I might impart the Mystery, and expect relief. Something must be done, *replied he coldly*; and tho' the management of such Affairs is more properly the business of your Sex, than ours, I will endeavour to find some Person with whom you may remain; but should the Secret be made known, I think it will be infinitely less vexatious to us both, to have the Suspicion light on any other Man than me.—— It may occasion a Breach between ARIDANOR and BARSINA, which never, perhaps, will be made up.—— I would have you, therefore, dear ALMIRA! entirely to conceal your Tenderness for me, or that I feel for you.—— But this, *pursued he, perceiving she was bursting into tears at his words*, is all but supposition.—— I hope we may order it so, that all those from whom we would conceal it, should have no conjecture of the reason which induces you to remove, which yet you need not think of for a long time.

Reflecting within himself, that he had not at the first discovery of this Event, behaved with that softness which he ought to have done, he endeavour'd to repair that Fault, by saying a great many kind and
ten-

tender things to her. But, alas! the little Compassion he had testified for the Ruin he had brought on her, had already pierced her Heart too far, for all the Fondness that he could afterwards express, to remove. She rightly judged, that those Emotions of the Mind, which in a surprize the unguarded Soul sends forth, are more to be believ'd than all the Tongue can speak, when Recollection has given room for Artifice; and contemplating her Condition with Eyes unprejudiced, she saw the misery of it, nor could be blind to that prospect of mingled Infamy and Horror, which open'd itself to her affrighted View.

Her Griefs, join'd to those Disorders natural to Women in the like Circumstances, threw her into such a deep Melancholy and Indisposition, that she was unfit for Company; she kept her Chamber, and even there avoided being seen as much as possible, even by any of the Family; she fancied that whoever look'd on her would guess the occasion of her alter'd Countenance, and gave way to so terrible a Despair, that had it been of long continuance, must certainly have ended in Madness. Her refusing sometimes, even to admit her Sister, made IDOMEUS not attempt going into her Chamber; not that he doubted her readiness to accept his Visit, but he thought that to be received when all the World be-

side

side were denied, would look too particular not to cause inspection into the reason of so strange a Behaviour. Being vex'd at the heart at her proceeding in this manner, he writ a Letter of Advice to her, which one day, when with BARSINA he was sitting with her, he slip't into her hand unperceiv'd by that unsuspecting Lady. The Contents of it were as follows.

To the Lovely ALMIRA.

‘ **W**HY do you express a Terror lest
 ‘ your Secret should be divulg'd,
 ‘ and at the same time take the most effectual
 ‘ means to make it so? — Can any thing be
 ‘ more contrary to Prudence than your Behaviour? — Will not your alter'd Looks
 ‘ put People on an enquiry into the occasion? — And that unusual Sadness which
 ‘ sits upon your Brow, convince them that
 ‘ there is something more than Indisposition
 ‘ in the case? — Why, my Dearest! have
 ‘ you so little regard either of yourself, or
 ‘ me? — You fancy your Condition infinitely worse than it is: How many Ladies
 ‘ have been, and doubtless are now in the
 ‘ same, yet retain their accustomed Gaiety,
 ‘ and pass unsuspected by the most diligent
 ‘ observers? — For Heaven's sake call your
 ‘ Reason to your aid, and consider what it
 ‘ is you do, and what it is you would avoid.

O

' void.—It is yet a long time before the
 ' Myſtery is in any danger, but from your-
 ' ſelf, of being made known ; and you may
 ' depend on my Care to take ſuch mea-
 ' ſures as ſhall ſecure your Reputation, and
 ' afford you all the Conſolation you can
 ' wiſh.—Reſume, therefore, your former
 ' Sprightlineſs, and let thoſe Eyes which firſt
 ' lit up my Love, ſtill ſhine, and bleſs me
 ' with their chearing Glances.—Nor let any
 ' Jealouſy of Love diſturb thy gentle Soul.
 ' Believe me, my Adorable, thou art now as
 ' dear, as charming to my raviſh'd Thoughts,
 ' as in the extatic moment of our firſt En-
 ' joyment.—How cruel are you then, to
 ' anticipate the worſt that Time or Age could
 ' do ! —How many bliſſful Hours have we
 ' loſt by this unkind Retirement ! —Scarce
 ' could I ſuffer more, wer't thou inconstant !
 ' Throw off then a Sadneſs ſo much an
 ' Enemy to Love, to thy Reputation, and
 ' to our mutual Contentment ; and let us
 ' once more haſten to thoſe Joys which
 ' only thou canſt give, and none can be
 ' capable of receiving in a manner more
 ' ſublime, than,

' My For-ever-lov'd ALMIRA'S
 ' Moſt paſſionately Devoted,
 ' And Faithful
 ' IDOMEUS.
 ' P. S.

P. S. ‘ As a Proof of that Tenderness
 ‘ you have so often sworn, I again entreat
 ‘ you will let me see you in publick to-
 ‘ morrow, which is the only means that
 ‘ can secure us that Happiness in private,
 ‘ which I still flatter myself you languish
 ‘ for, with the same Ardour you once con-
 ‘ fess’d, and I still feel. Adieu ! my Char-
 ‘ mer.’

As the chief reason of that Discontent which had seiz’d upon her Spirits, was the belief that she was now grown indifferent to the dear Ruiner, the hope that she had wrong’d him by an unjust Suspicion, dissipated the greatest part of it : and as her Despair decreased, the force of Reason strengthen’d itself in her. She saw, indeed, that she had taken wrong steps for the concealment of what she so much fear’d should be discover’d, and wonder’d how she could have been so lost to Thought, as to be guilty of it. A thousand and a thousand times she kiss’d the dear Testimony of her Lover’s Truth, and resolv’d not to delay Obedience to the purport. She therefore order’d her Woman, that same Evening, to let her Sister know that she was better, and desired her Company ; which that affectionate Lady rejoicing to hear, went to her immediately, and found her even beyond Ex-

pectation in so short a time recovered. The next day she dined at table with the Family, and some Strangers, who happen'd to be there that day.

The Gardens belonging to the Palace of ARIDANOR being extremely pleasant, they all adjourn'd to pass some part of the Mid-day's Heat in those refreshing Groves: As they were walking up an Alley, which led to that delightful Recess to which they were going, ARIDANOR, who happen'd to be behind ALMIRA, saw that in plucking a Handkerchief out of her Pocket, she dropped a Paper; which he stooping hastily to take up, with a design to restore to her, he saw it was his Brother's Hand. The Surprize he was in, to see it in a Direction to a Lady, who, till she came to live at his House, he never had the least acquaintance with, and since had Opportunities too frequently for speech to have any occasion that he could think on to employ his Pen, made him alter his design of returning it to her: and as none in the company saw him take it up, he put it into his Pocket, resolving to inform himself of this Secret; and imagining there must be something more than ordinary in it, he soon made an Excuse for leaving his Guests, and retired to his Closet for the satisfaction of his Curiosity.

I doubt not but my Reader easily believes this Letter was that which IDOMEUS
had

had writ to the disconsolate ALMIRA, to persuade her to take other measures than those her late Sorrows had obliged her to give into, and indeed was the only one he had at that time ever written to her. It is impossible to know whether Astonishment or Vexation was the most predominant in the Mind of ARIDANOR, at this Explanation of his Sister's, till now, mysterious Grievs, or if he more condemned his Brother for his Attempt on a Woman so nearly related to his Wife, or her for taking so little care to conceal what had pass'd between them.—IDOMEUS has reason to accuse her, *said he to himself, as soon as he had done reading*; would any Woman, possess'd of the smallest share of Sense, have acted as she has done? Her Melancholy, her Disorders, which she scarce aim'd at disguising, might, without the help of this Letter, had we not all been blinded by our good Opinion, have let us into the whole Secret?——'Twas wrong in him, however, to engage in an Intrigue with the Sister of BARSINA, nor can I easily forgive him for the Disquiets it may possibly create.

He was for some time divided in his Sentiments, whether he should take any notice of the Discovery he had made, or not; but fearing it might be further blazed, through Negligence, or Imprudence, at last resolv'd

not to conceal it. As he was in these Cogitations, his Brother, who wondred at his leaving the Company in so abrupt a manner, came to seek him: he found him with the Letter in his hand, which, as soon as he saw him enter the Room, he threw to him, telling him he ought to be more careful to whom he writ; and since he had been guilty of so great a Fault, in a Family where nothing but the utmost Respect was owing from him, he should at least have warned the Person with whom he committed it, to be more cautious of his and her own Secret. These Words, and the sight of the Paper, so much confounded him, that for some moments he was wholly bereft of Speech; and when he had the use of it, was little able to employ it in any Arguments, which might excuse what he had done. ARIDANOR, however, continued not long the Severities with which he had accosted him; he could not heartily condemn that in his Brother to which himself had but too great a Propensity, and more frequently indulg'd than check'd.—And as his greatest Perplexity was, lest what had happen'd should come to the knowledge of BARSINA, he charg'd him to behave to ALMIRA in such a manner, as should prevent her from giving any cause of Suspicion, either through Inadvertency, or Design. They had a long Conversation together

gether on this Subject, which, at their return to the Company, ARIDANOR excused, by saying, he had just received some Letters from the Country, which required an immediate dispatch in answering. But the first time IDOMEUS found himself alone with ALMIRA, he gently reproved her for the omission she had been guilty of, in not burning his Letter, which he told her he had found, his Brother having desired she might not know he was in the Secret. Suppose, *said he*, that BARSINA, or ARIDANOR, had taken it up, it was but our Good-fortune which prevented our Secret from being discover'd by those from whom 'tis most our Interest to conceal it; they were both in company when the fatal Scroll dropp'd from your Pocket, and might have seen it as well as I. Poor ALMIRA trembled all the time he was speaking, and could not for a good while get over the Horror it involv'd her in, but even to think how near she had been to what she most dreaded: This danger made her readily agree with him to be more cautious and circumspect than they had been, to be less frequently alone together than formerly, and on no occasion whatever to behave in a manner which could awaken Observation to a Scrutiny into their Dispositions. IDOMEUS did not fail to acquaint his Brother with the Discourse which had

pass'd between them, and the Resolutions which both of them had taken to regulate their future Conduct; yet was he not perfectly at ease: he knew very well, that to keep the Condition in which ALMIRA was, eternally a Secret, there were a million of Chances against one; and could not defend himself from the Apprehensions he was daily persecuted with. This Accident serv'd to let him know, that BARSINA was more dear to him, than he himself was sensible of before; since it was the sole fear of giving her disquiet, which occasioned so much in his own Breast.

To make the Proverb good, which says, *That one Vexation seldom arrives without being attended by others*; while he was struggling with that which the knowledge of IDOMEUS's Intrigue had given him, he received no inconsiderable Addition to it, through the Jealousy of ZELINDA. That Lady, as well as others, had heard the Story, at which the whole Court diverted themselves, of ARIDANOR having been lock'd up in the Closet of ISMONDA; and remembering that she had formerly observ'd he had treated her with a Complaisance, which might very well be taken for Love, and that of late they had seem'd to shun each other's Presence, and if they met, behav'd with a Coldness and Disrespect unbecoming of either of their Characters; in reality,

the

she made no doubt but there was an Amour, and that perceiving it grew talk'd of, they had agreed to affect this Indifference in publick, that the Fondness which in private they indulged, might be less liable to Suspicion.— She had an extraordinary opinion of herself, and thought that when she condescended to favour a Man in the manner she had done ARIDANOR, he ought to banish all former Impressions from his Soul, and devote it wholly to her. But resolving to be fully assur'd, that he was false, before she gave him any Proofs that she was jealous, she carefully observ'd all his Words and Actions, when in the presence of ISMONDA ; but that indrawn notice of his Eyes, which was occasion'd by Resentment, and the Fears of relapsing into his former Passion, she took for the Effects of Caution, and imagin'd he look'd not on her, because sensible he could not look on her without discovering too great a Tenderneſs : In fine, every thing she heard, every thing she saw, more confirming her that the report of the Amour between them was not without reason ; she was beginning to consider in what terms she should reproach him, and more expose her Rival to the Ridicule of the Court. She happen'd to be alone in the Palace-Gardens one Evening, indulging her Ill-humour, when she saw ARIDANOR pass swiftly by, unseeing her, and go directly

rectly to the Gate which led into the Wilderness. The Solitude of the Place which she saw him enter, and the haste he made to arrive at it, had very much the Air of an amorous Rendezvous, and she bless'd her good Stars for giving her this opportunity of detecting him. She consider'd not long therefore, what it was she had to do; but following the Path he took, was in the Wilderness a very few Minutes behind him: She left not a Grotto unsearch'd all the way she went; but Fortune not yet directing her to the right, so much time was spent, that she disappointed not the Persons she sought, of accomplishing the Intent they had in meeting. 'Tis impossible to express how much Vexation this Reflection gave her; but resolving to make herself amends, by the Revenge she would hereafter take on the Reputation of her Rival, she prosecuted her search: and being at last come to that place, which was in reality the Scene of their stolen Joys, she saw ARIDANOR come out of the most dark and shady Recess the whole Wilderness afforded, and to her unspeakable Surprise, not ISMONDA, but ELARIA in his hand.

Never were any Persons more cover'd with Confusion than were these three; 'tis difficult to say which of them had the greatest share of it; ELARIA at perceiving her
 Amour

Amour was discover'd ; ARIDANOR that it was so, by the very Woman, from whom, next his Wife, he would most carefully have conceal'd it ; or ZELINDA, at finding herself mistaken in the Object of her Jealousy. This Lady, however, had the advantage of first being able to recollect herself, and with the most scornful and malicious Smile she could put on, accosted ARIDANOR in these terms : I thought to have found you in other Company, my Lord, *said she* ; nor could I have believ'd, without having been convinc'd of it by my own Eyes, that a Girl so unexperient'd in Conversation as ELARIA is, could attract a Man of your Lordship's nice Goust half a minute ; much less could I have thought (*continued she, turning her Eyes on ELARIA, whose Face through shame and anger was dy'd all over with a scarlet blush*) that the Modesty of my seemingly innocent Cousin would have suffer'd her to make amorous Appointments.——Heavens ! *cry'd she*, How could you be so indecent, so horridly wicked, as to commit such an Action in the face of the Sun ? If Love be a Crime, *reply'd ARIDANOR, vex'd to the very Soul*, I know not why it should be absolv'd at one time more than another——Circumstances indeed may very much extenuate or alleviate the Guilt, and you know very well, Madam ! that there are some Ladies who think that Passion is in itself an

an excuse for breaking through the strictest Tyes.——Let us talk no more, therefore, I beseech you of this matter, ELARIA is perfectly innocent of what you seem to accuse her——I met her here by chance, and thinking it unbecoming in a Lady of her Age to give way to those Reflections the Melancholy of this solitary Place inspires, offer'd my Service to conduct her back to the Palace. Extremely well, *resum'd* ZELINDA *peevishly*; and your Lordship too came here to indulge Chagrin?——But now I think on't, that may possibly be true; you like being alone sometimes, or you would not have had patience to have been lock'd up for two long hours in the Closet of ISMONDA.——You see, my Lord, *added she, seeing him look prodigiously amaz'd at these Words*, that I have a perfect Intelligence of your Amours, and it must be confess'd indeed, that you are a Man of admirable Address to carry on so many different ones at the same time, all too with Women of the Court, and yet preserve yourself from the Effects of Jealousy. Jealousy, Madam! *answer'd he*; if I gave cause for it, it would be of little service to the Woman who testify'd it to a Man of my Disposition; and I would, above all things, have her who thinks my Esteem worthy of her regard, to abstain from that pernicious Passion, 'tis the very poison of Love; nor
would

would I search for Pleasure in a Bed of Snakes, tho' cover'd with a VENUS. Most Heroically indeed, *said* ZELINDA, you assert the Prerogative of your Sex; and since you are of this humour, I congratulate your Choice; from the tame humble Spirit of ELARIA you fear no Reproaches: perhaps she thinks your Love, at least the show of it, so great a Favour, that she ought not to repine at the share you bestow of it on others--But, *continu'd she, with the utmost spite,* for fear she should not enough know how to express her Gratitude, ORSAMES shall instruct her what to do, nor will I delay one moment acquainting him with the Honour his Family receives in the deference you pay his Daughter. I hope then, Madam! *answer'd he, provok'd beyond measure at this Menace,* that you will not forget to inform him also, that however ELARIA may have prov'd, there are other Ladies of his Family who do not love Ingratitude, and chuse rather to confer Favours unask'd, than refuse them when they are the Merit of a long Service. ZELINDA could not avoid hearing this Reproach, tho she seem'd not to do so; and having turn'd upon her heel just as she had concluded the Words already repeated, was tripping away as fast she could when he began to speak, and turn'd not back to continue a Conversation in which she had little reason to expect she should have the better.

Poor

Poor ELARIA, who all the time she had been there, had not utter'd a Syllable, nor dared, through Fear and Shame, scarce to lift up her Eyes, now turn'd them on her dear Undoer; and pouring forth at the same time a torrent of Tears, What will become of me, my Lord? *said she*; this cruel Woman will certainly betray me, and I no more can see my Father's face. This Lamentation was more cutting to ARIDANOR, than all the Raillery of the other had been, not only that he was really concern'd for what might happen, through the Pride and Jealousy of her offended Rival, but also that this Demand included something of a Dependance on him, which was no ways pleasing to him. Disguising therefore all the fears he had of ZELINDA's making good her Threats, Why are you terrify'd, my dear ELARIA? *said he*: Your Cousin will not certainly be so base as to expose you, nor can I think she would be the bearer of a Theme so unwelcome to a Father's ear.— Besides, she can at most but have a suspicion of our Amour, and will not venture to make what is in her but bare Imagination, pass on others for current Truth.— Depend on it, *continued he, finding her still unsatisfy'd*, there is nothing in what you apprehend, nor do I foresee any Consequence from this Meeting, half so bad as the present Discomposure of your Mind.— Clear up then,

then, my Angel, thy drooping Spirits, and believe I suffer more in the sight of thy Disorders, than any thing which can ensue will make thee feel.

He pursued his Endeavours to re-assure her all the way they walk'd together, and being come within the Garden, he took leave and separated, because the Walks were at that time very full of Company. BARSINA and ALMIRA, with some other Ladies, appear'd at a little distance ; to whom he immediately join'd himself, as did ELARIA with two or three who she saw together of her acquaintance.

But too true a Presage had this unhappy Beauty of her approaching Misfortune : At her coming home, she found ZELINDA there before her, and by her Countenance, as well as by the mingled Grief and Indignation which she beheld in that of both her Parents, immediately knew the Evil she so much dreaded, had in reality befallen her. The Servants, who at her entrance into the Room, were waiting, being dismiss'd, she continu'd not a moment in suspense. OR-SAMES, with all the marks of the most violent Fury in his Voice and Eyes, took her by the trembling Arm, and accosted her in these Terms : Is it possible, *said he*, that thou can'st so much degenerate from thy Mother's Virtue, and thy Father's Spirit, as to submit thy self the Slave of base Desires?
and

and forgetful of thy own and House's Honour, yield to become the loose Diversion of an idle Hour, and fit Society for none but such as live by Prostitution?—Speak, *pursu'd he, (growing more fierce, as by her Tears and Tremblings he found more reason to believe the Truth of what he had heard)* art thou this Wretch?——Hast thou at once cast off all Sense of Honour, Virtue, and Reputation? With infinite difficulty, she at last faintly answer'd, No; but was unable to bring forth more: and the griev'd Father still persisting in his Reproaches, which were seconded by the more peircing, if possible, Sorrows of a most tender Mother, struck so deeply to the fair Offender's Heart, that she fell fainting at their feet, happy, in a short Cessation, from the Pangs of Thought, and the just Sense of her forlorn Condition, and the sad State to which she had reduced Parents to whom she had been so dear.

Never was a Scene more moving, the mournful Mother weeping o'er her ruin'd Offspring; the unhappy Father divided between Grief, and Rage, and Pity; Revilings fill'd his mouth, but the fast Sighs which every now and then broke in upon his Words, and stopp'd the struggling Accents, declar'd there was a stock of Tenderness within, which would not suffer him to forget it was his darling Daughter he was about
to

to curse : with sudden starts like those which Frenzy causes, he stood and gaz'd on the still dear, tho' ruin'd Beauty, while the no less afflicted, tho more patient Mother, was with ZELINDA, employing their utmost care to recover her from the Swoon which conscious Guilt and Shame had thrown her in. As soon as she came to herself, Alas ! my dear Cousin, *said ZELINDA to her*, how griev'd am I to see you thus !—yet I could not resolve to see you persevere in a Conduct so dishonourable to yourself and Family, without informing those of it, who only can oblige you to regulate it for the future.—You know, that when first you made me the Confidante of your unhappy Passion for this destructive ARIDANOR, I did not fail to set before your Eyes the danger of giving way to it ; I reminded you of his being married, and of the Gaity of his Humour, which would not suffer him to lose any opportunity you should give him of taking an advantage over you——You promis'd then to take my Counsel, and while I hoped you did, forbore to utter the least syllable of what I knew : but you have now undone yourself in every Circumstance ; and would to Heaven, *added she, with a feign'd Sigh*, I were the only Person about Court to whom your Secret were divulg'd ; but you have been too pub-

lick in your Amour, not to have made even BARSINA herself suspect it.

In this manner, under the pretence of Friendship and Concern for her, did she go on persecuting her unfortunate Cousin, and while she seem'd to pity the Condition of so near a Relation, secretly triumph'd in exposing a Rival ; who, too artless and unexperienced in Deceit, had nothing to answer which cou'd make her be thought less guilty than she had been represented : and the perplex'd ORSAMES, and her troubled Mother, had from her own Behaviour but too many Confirmations of the Truth of what they had been told by ZELINDA. Resolving therefore to put a period to an Affair so offensive to Virtue and to their Honour, they sent her down to a Relation they had in a far distant Country, ordering her to be strictly watch'd and kept there, and even deny'd the privilege of Pen or Paper, to the end that she might have no means of informing ARIDANOR of the place of her abode, or encourage him to attempt any thing for the recovering her.

But, alas ! this last part of the Charge they gave, might have been spared ; the Passion of ARIDANOR had already had its fill, and had no longer those impatient Longings, which put Men on combating with the greatest Difficulties for the Gratification.——He was, indeed, infinitely vex'd,

vex'd, that ZELINDA had so much reason to suspect her Cousin had given him the same Proofs of an ungovernable Tenderness which herself had done, because he doubted not but that her Jealousy, join'd with that natural Propensity most Women have to expose the Faults of each other, would make her disclose this to as many as she was acquainted with.

ELARIA was no sooner sent away, than he was inform'd of it by she who had occasion'd it : If I have not the power over your Affections, *said she haughtily*, you see I can over those you have preferred to me ; ELARIA is gone to a place, whence all your Love will not afford you the means to bring her back.——This News was far from being so great a trouble to him, as ZELINDA imagin'd it would be ; and taking this opportunity, which her Jealousy gave him, of being rid of both at once, he told her, that he loved Tranquillity too well, to part with it on any consideration ; that he would not be made uneasy by the Caprice of any Woman ; and that, in fine, he found so much trouble in Intrigue, that he would, for the future, confine his whole Desires in the compass of BARSINA's Arms. These Words were like a Thunder-clap to the Ears of her to whom they were address'd ; who, expecting no such matter, and still finding too many Charms in him to con-

sent to part with him, endeavour'd to excuse the Rashness of her Jealousy, and protested she would no more pry into his Amours, or attempt to disturb him in the pursuit of any thing in which he propos'd a Pleasure. ARIDANOR wanted not Good-nature ; and seeing she had submitted to his Humour so much beyond what he could have imagin'd from one of hers, he thought it too much to humble her Spirit, and make miserable her Love at the same time : and taking her in his Arms, assur'd her he would not only forgive what she had done on the score of ELARIA, but also continue his Affections to her, with the same Tenderness and Ardour as before. Now was she as happy in her own Imagination, as she had made her Rival wretched ; but how long Fate permitted her this Blessing, we shall hereafter discover. The chief Subjects of our History, THEODORE and ISMONDA, at present claim our Attention, and require we should look into the means by which they were extricated from that Labyrinth of Perplexities, in which we lately left them bewilder'd and involv'd.

The good Princess, extremely troubled at the Report which was spread abroad of her Favourite, delay'd not to acquaint her with what she had heard : And the Vexation ISMONDA conceiv'd at so unlook'd-for an Injury to her Reputation, had been in-
sup-

supportable, had it not been sweeten'd by the belief, that this it was which occasion'd the late change in the behaviour of the Prince toward her; and that it was not to the want of Constancy in him, but the Jealousy he had of hers, she ow'd the Estrangement which for some days had been between them. She attested her Innocence with all the Asseverations which her desire of being clear'd could suggest; and fearing that every thing which came from herself might be liable to Suspicion, entreated her royal Mistress to put the same Questions to ARIDANOR as she had done to her: No, no, *said she*, I am enough convinc'd by what yourself assures me; but if I were not so, should little depend on what a Lover should alledge in the Vindication of a Mistress.—I doubt not but ARIDANOR has honour enough rather to endure the reproach of not having been able to please a Lady, than boast the Favours he receives from her, to the prejudice of her Reputation. After some little time being past in these kind of Discourses, ISMONDA retir'd to her own Apartment, to ruminate on what she had heard, and consider what means were best for her to make use of, in order to undeceive the Prince from the unjust Opinion she now not doubted but he had entertain'd of her. And not having any opportunity of holding a long Conversation,

sation, he having refrain'd visiting her of late, she resolv'd to write to him in such a manner, as should engage him to come, if, with his good opinion of her Conduct, he had not also thrown off all the Tenderness he once had for her. Nothing being so terrible to a Woman of Spirit as Suspence, she delay'd not to enforce the Certainty of her Fate, by employing her Pen to him in this manner,

ISMONDA *to THEODORE, the dear Sovereign of her Soul, and only Ruler of all her Thoughts, her Words, and Actions.*

‘ **W**HAT Terrors, O thou Life of all
 ‘ my Joys! what a wild Maze of
 ‘ Fears, and Doubts, and Jealousies, and
 ‘ dismal Apprehensions, have you suffer’d
 ‘ me to be involv’d in!—— What from
 ‘ your alter’d Looks and Absence could I
 ‘ conjecture, but that I was undone, my
 ‘ Love grown tasteless, and my Form un-
 ‘ pleasing to your Eyes?—— ’Tis but
 ‘ this moment that I had room to hope it
 ‘ was not so, and bless the happy Scandal
 ‘ which gives me leave to think ’tis not In-
 ‘ difference, or Hate, that keeps you from
 ‘ me.—— Be angry, be jealous, but still re-
 ‘ tain your Love; my Innocence and un-
 ‘ shaken Faith will, some time or other,
 ‘ find the way to chase the two former
 ‘ Passions

' Passions from your Breast, but the latter,
 ' if once lost, is never to be retriev'd. —
 ' The Princess, more kind than THEODORE,
 ' has inform'd me of the Aspersions thrown
 ' on me on ARIDANOR's score. — Oh,
 ' Prince! could you believe me guilty? —
 ' But I will not accuse you, but myself,
 ' for not revealing to you sooner the whole
 ' History of that Affair, which has occa-
 ' sioned me this Taint in my Reputation,
 ' and you these needless Jealousies. —
 ' Think, I conjure you, my dear Prince;
 ' but sure I need not remind you of it;
 ' would I have forsaken the faithful Arms
 ' of fond ADRASTUS, my native Country,
 ' and unnumbered Friends, forfeited that
 ' Virtue which from my Youth I strictly had
 ' preserv'd, and run so imminent a Hazard
 ' of losing my Character, equally precious
 ' with my Life; would I have done all this
 ' to purchase THEODORE's Affection, if I
 ' had thought it so mean a Blessing, as to
 ' consent to part with it in exchange for
 ' ARIDANOR? — O, 'tis an Injury to my
 ' Understanding, as well as to my Truth,
 ' to imagine, that, after thee, there is any
 ' thing in the whole Sex beside, capable of
 ' attracting my Regard. — Haste then, and
 ' do me justice. — I live not but for thee,
 ' and if so wretched to be depriv'd of that
 ' only Aim, only Ambition of my desiring
 P 4 ' Soul,

‘ Soul, thy Love, shall return to *Anatolia*,
 ‘ and die, as I have liv’d,

My Ador’d THEODORE’S,
 ever Passionately Faithful,

ISMONDA.

She sent this by a Page, whose Fidelity she had experienc’d, ordering him to observe when the Prince was retiring to his Closet, as it was his Custom to do every Evening, and deliver the Paper into his own hands. He fail’d not to obey punctually the Directions she gave him, and instead of losing any time in writing, he sent her back for answer, by word of mouth, that in half an hour he would see her at her own Apartment. There needed no more to convince this perfect Lover of her Truth, than telling him so; he had this just opinion of all great Spirits, that whatever Faults they may be guilty of, they never are of Insincerity, and that her’s was of that kind, he had had a thousand Instances.——He now gave to the Winds his late Distrust, and if he had any Uneasiness, it was in the reflection how much he had been to blame, to give any entrance to a Passion so mean as Jealousy.——Her rightly applying the cause of his estranging himself in the manner he had done for some days, was a new Charm to his transported

ported Soul.— How much beyond her Sex, in every thing, is that Woman! *said he to himself*; how far from their little Doubts, and impertinent Apprehensions! She sees into the most hidden Meanings, and never judges but with almighty Reason.— And then again would he cry out, How unworthy am I to possess such Excellence, who could suspect her for any thing less than she appears?—She is above Hypocrisy, or the meaner views of vulgar Spirits, and in every Action denotes a generous and disinterested Flame, and that not the *Royalty*, but the *Person* of the happy THEODORE, was the Object of her Affections.

With these rapturous Reflections did he entertain himself while alone; but when they met, where is the Pen which can describe the mighty Joy! The Pleasures of Reconciliation between Lovers is unspeakable, unconceivable but by those who have felt what 'tis to have the swelling Heart long torn with anxious Doubts, and fired with Jealousy, at once restor'd to Peace, to Happiness, and all that Heaven of Felicity which mutual Love affords. Such was the state this blissful Pair now shar'd, and never had rewarded Passion fill'd them with Extasies more divine, more insupportable to staggering Sense! They were so great, they scarce were to be borne, and to have been more,
must

must have been fatal.—So little is Humanity capable of sustaining the Emotions of the Spirit, were there not Bars by Nature planted to restrain its force.

In the first Truce from speechless Transports, and tumultuous Blissess, ISMONDA recounted to him the whole History of the Persecutions she had received from ARIDANOR, and the reason of her concealing him in the Closet; but by what means this came to be known, neither of them could imagine. No body could think that ARIDANOR had so little Honour, as to mention such an Adventure, had it terminated to his advantage, much less when it happen'd so much the contrary. And the Fidelity of LYSETTA, who was the only Person whom ISMONDA had trusted with that Affair, had been too much experienced, to permit a doubt on her side. It gave also some little Discontent to THEODORE, to be told that their Amour was suspected, especially by a Person, who, being an unhappy Rival, might suffer the Dictates of his *Malice*, to overcome those of his *Generosity*: but ISMONDA soon eas'd him of those Apprehensions, by telling him, that she had observ'd a more than ordinary Familiarity between him and ZELINDA; that she was more than half assur'd, there was an Intimacy between them; and that he had now forgotten the Passion he formerly profess'd for her, and the

the Treatment he had receiv'd from her. It was easy indeed at this time, to drive all Considerations, which were uneasy, from a Mind which resolv'd to devote itself wholly to Love and Pleasure.—He spoke of it no more, and the remaining moments they pass'd together, were only taken up with mutual Endearments.

To add to the Contentment of this once more happy Prince, he receiv'd news from MARMILLIO, that LUTETIA was not only brought to bed, but also, that the Child she went with expired almost as soon as born, and that that Favourite had made a considerable progress in the Task enjoin'd him, of reconciling her to the thoughts of being no longer of service to the pleasure of her Prince. All dangers of any discovery from that quarter being pretty well over, he resolv'd, for the future, never to be guilty of any thing, which, if ISMONDA were witness of, would cause any Interruption in their Love. He had nothing now to apprehend, but on the score of EURIDICE; and DORASPE continually solliciting him to influence ARBANES to consent to their Nuptials before those of IRENE with ERNESTUS could be celebrated; he thought it best to yield to his Entreaties, and at the same time oblige himself, by seeing that Lady disposed of, in a manner which would take from her the power of expressing a Tender-
ness

derness which laid him under a Necessity of dissembling with her; yet still retaining a desire of delivering MARMILLIO from the same Troubles himself had been involv'd in, he oblig'd DORASPE to sign the Articles of Marriage for IRENE with ERNESTUS, before he mention'd the Affair to ARBANES. But that being done, the other was well pleased to consent to the promotion of his Neice, not doubting but that of his Son would immediately ensue. DORASPE was transported at the Concession, ARBANES well satisfied, EURIDICE was the only Person who expressed any Reluctance; and it was not without ten thousand Vows, and well-dissembled Ardours of continued Tenderness, that THEODORE at last perswaded that Lady to yield to be another's, that she might with the more security be also his. Every thing, however, being at last agreed on, the Day for the Wedding was appointed, and all necessary Preparations were order'd to make it magnificent, and becoming the Quality of DORASPE, and the passionate Affection he had for EURIDICE.

But as if the love of Intrigue was to be inspir'd in all who came to the Court of *Caramania*, CLEOMENES, the Brother of MARMILLIO, who since the supposed Disgrace of that Favourite, was obliged to be continually there, because the Prince could with less suspicion both give and receive
 Letters

Letters through his means, than any other, became extremely enamour'd with ATTALINDA, the Wife of a certain Nobleman, distinguish'd by the Title of *The Good-natured Lord*. What first gave it him, was, that happening to find a most passionate Love-letter directed to his Wife, and also Thanks for having received some Favours beyond what could be taken for the effects of an ordinary Complaisance, he put it into his Pocket very carefully; and the first time he was alone with her, return'd it to her without the least Marks of Jealousy or Ill-humour; saying only, *My Dear, I wish you would be more careful of Papers of this nature. 'Twas well it fell into no other hands than mine. — If it had, I know not what might have become of your Reputation. —*

His Valet, who happen'd to be in the next Room, and overheard what pass'd between them on this score, thought the manner of his Behaviour so very extraordinary, that he could not forbear relating it to some of his Intimates, they to others, and so on, till it became a Jest, not only through the Court, but the whole Town.

This Story, of which CLEOMENES was inform'd, gave him encouragement to hope he should not be unsuccessful in his Amour. What more could a Lover wish, than such a Proof of the easy Temper of the Husband he would impose upon,
and

and the amorous Disposition of the Wife he would seduce! ——— The Beauties of ATTALINDA no longer gave him Pain, but Pleasure; because he look'd upon her as already won, even before he had an opportunity of attempting it, which he imagin'd was all that was necessary to make him master of his utmost Desires. But, in spite of the hopes with which he flatter'd himself, he found it not so easy a matter as he had imagin'd, to get the liberty of speaking to her alone; she was scarce ever to be seen without ARSINOE with her; and the presence of that Lady, who declar'd herself a profess'd Enemy to Intrigue, and all the Diversions of the gay World, gave him many disappointments, when he came fully prepared with Arguments, and Assurance to back them, for the declaration of his Passion. The little conformity which there appear'd to be in the Notions of these Ladies, the one always alert and chearful, the other grave, formal and precise, made every body wonder at the Intimacy between them; but CLEOMENES, who made it his business more than any other, to dive into the Reason, could not help believing, that the demure Countenance might be capable of concealing an Inclination which might render her no unfit Companion for the other, who more openly betray'd the Impulse of Desire. As he was one day ruminating

nating within himself in what manner he should proceed, either to make a Confidante of this Shadow of his Mistress, or contrive some Stratagem which might render them less inseparable, a young Nobleman, called MAZARES, with whom he was extremely intimate, came to visit him; and after some little discourse on ordinary Affairs, Dear CLEOMENES, *said he*, I have a Secret to disclose to you, but you must first swear to me never to reveal it; and also, that you will assist me to get rid of a very troublesome business, which I have unwarily engaged in. I never knew People, *replied he*, make a Confidant of any one, without having some design in it. — They make it a favour that they trust us, but always require something of us which more than counterbalances the Pleasure of being privy to the Affair. — But setting Raillery apart, *pursued he*, you need not doubt either my fidelity or readiness to oblige you in any thing in my power. I do not, *resumed the other*; nor is the Task difficult, nor to a Man of your Constitution displeasing, that I would enjoin you. — But not to keep you in suspense, you must know I have, for a considerable time, had an Intrigue with one of the finest Women about the Court, but the Affair is now grown old to me—I have had her so long, that she is become as insipid as a Wife; — yet does she not perceive

ceive it, but continues so surfeitingly fond, that I am quite sick of the very Name of Love ; and were it not that I have a sort of an Inclination to a very fine Woman that is continually with her, I should find some pretence or other to quarrel with her : but such is my unhappy State, that I cannot see ATTALINDA without her ; and am therefore compell'd to dissemble a Passion for the one, in hope the other will discover by my Eyes that I have a real one for her.

ATTALINDA ! *cried* CLEOMENES, *more surprized than can be well express'd* ; then it is ARSINOE whom you have possess'd, and are grown weary of. Your guess is right, *answer'd* MAZARES ; I have had her these two Months, and yet the unreasonable Creature expects I should meet her with the same warmth of Inclination, as when the Novelty of her Beauties fir'd. — See, *continued he*, what a Billet I receiv'd from her this morning ! In speaking these words, he plucked a Letter out of his Pocket, and delivering it to CLEOMENES, he found it contain'd these words :

To the dear Charmer of my Soul, the Accomplish'd MAZARES.

‘ I Have not clos'd my Eyes this Night.
 ‘ — All my hours since last I saw you,
 ‘ have been taken up with the cruel Reflections

' flections you caused in me. — For Hea-
 ' ven's sake, what did you mean by saying
 ' you were obliged to go out of Town for
 ' a whole Month? Do you think it pos-
 ' sible for me to live so long without you?
 ' Or that I can, with any tolerable degree
 ' of patience, think I have forfeited my
 ' Honour, for a Man who is capable of sup-
 ' porting such an Absence? — But I hope
 ' you spoke it with no other design than
 ' to make trial of my Love; for I cannot
 ' see that any Motives, unless it is Inclina-
 ' tion, should necessitate your going. —
 ' However it be, I beg to be assured, and
 ' that you will not delay one moment the
 ' satisfaction I require. — I am now a-
 ' lone in my Chamber, whence I will not
 ' stir till I have your Answer. — I wish
 ' you would come yourself, and by your
 ' dear presence this Morning, make some
 ' reparation for the disquiets of the Night.
 ' — If you are free from Company, let
 ' the Bearer conduct you to the impatient
 ' Arms of

' The Languishing

' ARSINOE.

Good Heaven! *cry'd* CLEOMENES, *as soon*
as he had read it, who will hereafter trust
 a Woman when she professes Virtue! —
 The seemingly cold ARSINOE, write a Bil-

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let of this nature! — scarce can I believe my Eyes! — Oh, *replied the other*, your reserv'd and coy Women in publick, are ever the most warmly amorous in private. — The Constraint they put on their Inclinations, in denying themselves those innocent Liberties which others take, makes them break out with greater force and vehemence, when once they give a loose to them. — If you would chuse a Mistress, who, like *Semele*, wishes to be clasp'd in Flames, seek her among the demure and the precise. — The gay and chearful Girl, evaporates her Spirits in superficial Gallantries; but the sly silent Maid longs for more substantial Joys, receives the welcome Bliss with double eagerness, and never knows Satiety. But she can give it, *interrupted CLEOMENES, laughing*, or you would not complain of this Disposition in ARSINOE. 'Tis true, my Friend, *replied the other*, the Delights of Love, when pursued with too much violence at first, degenerate by swift degrees into Disgust. — The Blessings which ARSINOE afforded, were too extravagant to last; — and what was once the highest Joy transported Nature was capable of receiving, is now become a Toil, a kind of Penance for pass'd Pleasures. I understand you, *said CLEOMENES*, you have entertain'd a new Desire, and for that reason would be glad to get rid of your Obligations to the old one.

You

You have hit it, *resumed* MAZARES, and you are the Person I have pitch'd on to do me this Service.—— I have many reasons to believe it is not *me*, but my *Sex*, that ARSINOE is in love with; tho' did she really find any thing in me more agreeable than the generality of Mankind, I doubt not but the superior Perfections of CLEOMENES might, with a very little pains, oblige her to change her Sentiments in his favour. I will not return your Lordship's Compliment, *said he*, because 'tis natural to flatter the Vanity of those from whom we expect Favours.—— But, pray, of what use can I be to you in this Affair? —— You know ARSINOE and ATTALINDA are so perpetually together, that there is not a possibility of speaking to either of them, without making a Confidante of the other. As for that, I have laid a Scheme, *replied* MAZARES; we will go together this Afternoon, to visit ATTALINDA, where I know we shall find ARSINOE. You shall intreat the favour of the latter to give you leave to talk to her one moment in private; on which she will certainly take you into the Garden, or some other Room.—— You may then make what Pretensions you please to her; and to second your Arguments, I will give you this Letter, which you may tell her I dropp'd by accident.—— Accuse me of want of that Care I ought to have taken

of her Reputation ; say any thing which Invention can supply you with, to render me unworthy of the happiness of her Love ; but be sure to make no mention of that I have for ATTALINDA.—— I am certain you may prevail on her as far as you please, if you follow these measures.—— At least, if you should fail in that, you will not in convincing me of your Friendship, and engaging my utmost Gratitude and Services. CLEOMENES, who, all the time he had been speaking, had been casting about in his mind, how to make the best Advantage of this Adventure for his own Designs, readily promised to do all that was desired of him ; and as soon as they thought it a proper hour, both went to the House of ATTALINDA, where, as MAZARES said, they found ARSINOE ; but some other Ladies also being present, gave CLEOMENES an inexpressible satisfaction, that while he was entertaining ARSINOE, as he had agreed to do, the other would be deprived of the opportunity of making his Addresses to ATTALINDA. Nothing could be more surprized than was ARSINOE, at his desiring to speak to her in private ; she having no farther acquaintance with him, than by seeing him sometimes in the Drawing-Room, or at Church. She withdrew with him, however, to a Window, which was a considerable distance from the Company ; but he not thinking it remote enough for

for what he had to say, Madam, *cry'd he*, I beg you would permit me to attend you to some other Place; what I have to communicate, will, I fear, occasion some Disorders in you, which you will not think proper should be observ'd by so many Witnesses. Tho', *said she*, I cannot comprehend what business a Person so much a stranger to me, as CLEOMENES, can have with me, yet I shall make no scruple of list'ning to it; believing my Character and Reputation are too well known to you, to encourage you to entertain me in any manner which may be offensive to that strict Reserve and Modesty by which I regulate my Conduct. It was as much as he could do to restrain a Smile from breaking out at these words; but composing his Countenance to as much Gravity as was possible, Would to Heaven, Madam, *answered he*, that all who have the blessing of conversing with you, were as zealous for your Honour as CLEOMENES will soon have an opportunity of proving himself. There needed no more to make her as impatient for going with him, as he express'd that she should do so. She found there was something mysterious couch'd in what he said, and was eager for an Explanation. — She therefore led him into ATTALINDA'S Clolet, which happen'd to be open, and was at the end of a long Gallery, between which and the Room where they

left the Company, were many others, which secured whatever pass'd from the hearing of any but themselves. But for the greater Surety, as soon as they enter'd, he made fast the Door; which observing, she look'd a little confounded at, I beseech you, Madam! *said he*, be not in any apprehensions of danger from my proceeding; what I do, is to preserve your Honour, not attempt a violation of it. In speaking these Words, he oblig'd her to sit down, and placing himself by her, immediately took out the Letter which she had written to MAZARES, and which that treacherous Lover had given him on purpose to show her.—Do you know the Contents of this, beautiful ARSINOE? *said he*. Let any one judge what a Woman who pretended to the severest Virtue, must feel at finding herself thus expos'd; at first she rav'd, deny'd that she had ever written it, and cry'd it was a Plot contriv'd to blast her Reputation: but CLEOMENES soon brought her to talk in another manner, by convincing her that he was but too well assur'd of the Condescensions she had made MAZARES, relating to her many other particulars of her Behaviour to him, which made her know he must have had the whole History from that unfaithful Man.

What, *cry'd she, bursting into Tears, so soon as he had done speaking*, is it possible that he should be so monstrous a Villain to be-

betray the Faults his Perjury has made me guilty of!—Oh wretched Woman, *contin'd she*, what will become of me? my Reputation, which is dearer to me than my Life, is lost for ever. No, Madam, *rejoin'd she*, I believe the Secret is only lodg'd in my Breast, which, be assur'd, I would suffer my Heart to be pluck'd thence, e'er I'll part with it. But wherefore, *said she*, for what Reason did he make you his Confidant?—To reveal that, *answer'd he*, I must be as guilty to him as he has been to you; but yet, *contin'd he, after a little Pause, as tho' he was divided in his Sentiments whether to proceed or not*, I cannot suffer a Lady, such as the incomparable ARSINOE, to be injur'd in a manner so cruel and so base, without giving her warning of the Villany design'd against her, much less can I consent to be a sharer in the Guilt.—— Know then, Madam, that all I hitherto have said, has been by his Commission—— He is grown weary of your Charms, and would transfer the right you have given him over you to me, while he with greater liberty pursues the yet untasted Sweets of ATTALINDA'S Beauty.—— He bid me address you in the manner of a Lover, and to prepare your Heart for an Impression in my favour, permitted me to say whatever I thought fit, excepting only that of his Love to ATTALINDA, or that I came by the

knowledge of your Amour with him from his own Mouth: on all sides therefore you were to have been made the Property; but I have a Soul too honest to join in the Deceit——have confess'd to you all the Truth of the Affair, and ask no other Recompence, than that you will not betray me to him——Make your own use of what I have reveal'd, or to forget or reclaim the ungrateful Rover; but let him not know that I entertain'd you with any other Discourse than that of my own Passion. You are as generous as he is the contrary, *said she*, nor shall you have reason to repent so disinterested a Proof of your Good-nature:——But, *pursu'd she, looking kindly on him*, is there no way by which I may return the Obligation? Yes, Madam! *answer'd he, who having his head full of the Thoughts of ATTALINDA, did not presently fathom the meaning of what she said*, 'tis greatly in your power to contribute to my Felicity; I am not less sensible of the Charms of ATTALINDA than is MAZARES; you have an influence over her, and by inclining her to favour me, you may doubly reward the Service I have done you, and, at the same time, punish my ungrateful Rival. 'Twas easy to perceive a visible Alteration in that Lady's Countenance at this Request. MAZARES, *answer'd she peevishly*, has render'd himself equally unworthy of my Resentment,

ment, as of my Love; I despise the Wretch, nor from this moment will ever think of him but with the utmost contempt; —but as for ATTALINDA, she is wholly taken up with young PHILARCHUS: I wou'd not have you give way to Desires, which I am certain will be unavailing—leave it to the vile MAZARES to love and to despair; I would have you as happy as your good Qualities and Accomplishments deserve, which is infinitely more than ATTALINDA, were she kind, could make you——for be assur'd, a distant view of her is best; she has a thousand Imperfections, which disgust those who are permitted a nearer Conversation with her, nor would PHILARCHUS so long have devoted himself to her, were it not for the rich Presents she is continually making him; which, to a Man of his narrow Fortune, are too acceptable not to engage the return she expects from them.——But tell me, *added she, taking him by the Hand, and gently pressing it,* is there nothing else in which I can oblige you? Nothing, Madam! *answer'd he, by this time being perfectly inform'd what it was she aim'd at,* in which I dare hope you will. You wrong me then, *return'd she hastily,* by Heaven there is nothing in my power I will refuse you—think, therefore, if there is no other Lady with whom I have an Interest, whose Love might make you happy—I dare answer
for

for her, whoever she be, she cannot long hold out against so many Charms as you are master of, especially when I shall repeat all your Perfections over to her in such Terms as cannot fail to raise Desire.——Instruct me then which of the Train of Beauties that grace the *Caramanian* Court, you wou'd most gladly have in your Arms this moment; —I have sworn to do my utmost to bring her to you, and you need not doubt but I will keep my Promise.

ARSINOE was a very lovely Woman, and the new Passion with which she now was animated, added a fresh lustre to her Eyes, and a more lively red upon her glowing Cheeks; CLEOMENES was naturally amorous, and when urg'd in this manner, must, indeed, not have been a modern Man, to have been without those Emotions she so plainly aim'd to inspire in him.——They were alone—the Door shut——so many Temptations joining with that which Curiosity afforded, made him but little hesitate what Answer he should make; he took her in his Arms, and crying, Who that had the privilege of chusing, not only in the Court of *Caramania*, but in the whole World beside, would think any but ARSINOE worthy his Regard, proceeded to Freedoms with her of that kind, which I must leave to the Reader's Imagination to represent;— I shall only say, that they were not displeasing
to

to her, and, telling him further, that since he had her Vow, she could not refuse the Performance of it, if requir'd, yielded without even a shew of Reluctance to all he attempted, exacting from him only a Promise that her Reputation should be safe; which he protesting to preserve inviolably, some moments were past in those Extasies, which, MAZARES had before acquainted him, were in the power of this Lady to bestow and to receive.

At their return to the Company, whoever had been sensible in what manner they had pass'd the time of their absence, would have been surpriz'd to see much less appearance of Confusion in the face of ARSINOE, than in that of CLEOMENES; relying on her Character, and the good Opinion her pretences to Virtue had establish'd in the World of her, made her enter with all the assurance that the most perfect Innocence could have worn: but CLEOMENES could not restrain his Blushes at the sight of MAZARES and ATTALINDA, conscious of the Crime he had been guilty of to both, injuring the one by carrying to another some part of the Ardours he had vow'd to himself he would reserve entirely for her, and betraying that which he had so faithfully promis'd the other to keep secret. MAZARES, however, who little suspected him either for his Rival, or Deceiver,

was

was impatient to know the Event of his Conversation with ARSINOE, and therefore took leave of the Ladies in a short time. CLEOMENES having been introduced to their acquaintance but by his means, had no Excuse to stay behind him, and was necessitated to answer to all the Interrogatories made him by his Friend, before he had any time to reflect in what manner it was best for him to reply. He would not, however, let him know the sudden Conquest he had obtain'd over the Lady, who had that very moment sent so passionate a Declaration of Love to himself, lest the Pique it might give his Pride, might occasion him to reproach her with her Inconstancy, and by that means she also be provok'd to unravel the whole Discourse between them concerning ATTALINDA. He told him, therefore, that he had found her not consenting to the Professions he had made her, nor yet not altogether so averse, as to give him any great occasion to fear he should not be able to do him the service he required, of easing him of the trouble of her Affections. MAZARES was perfectly contented with this Account, nor imagin'd there was any thing more had pass'd between them, than what he was acquainted with : ARSINOE, as she had promised CLEOMENES, not breaking out into any Demonstrations of Rage, which might give him occasion

to

to believe himself betray'd by the Person whom he had trusted.

But in a very few days after, that Lady had an opportunity of venting the secret spite she had conceived against him. The long-wish'd moment at last arriv'd, in which he told ATTALINDA that she was the dearest thing on Earth: but nothing could be more unwelcome to her, than such a Declaration; she was herself too deeply engaged with PHILARCHUS, to think of any other Man, and also knowing him to have been the Darling of her dear Friend ARSINOE's Soul, he of his whole Sex was the last by whom she would suffer herself to be address'd. She express'd her Sentiments on this occasion with all the plainness imaginable, protesting she would acquaint his Mistress with his Ingratitude and Falshood: nor did she fail to do as she had said; and ARSINOE, glad to be told it by her, immediately writ him a Letter as full of Upbraidings as the other had been of Fondness, forbidding him ever to see her more, and loading him with every opprobrious Name which witty Malice could invent. But her Indignation was now depriv'd of all its power of giving pain, and he could have been very merry with her Resentment, had he not discover'd by it that ATTALINDA was, in good earnest, resolv'd to put a period to his Hopes. He communicated this Letter, and
the

the Conversation he had with ATTALINDA, which occasion'd it, to CLEOMENES, who had also his share of Pain and Pleasure in the hearing it : It delighted him above measure, that she had repuls'd him with so much Vigour ; but then the Apprehensions, that for the sake of her dear PHILARCHUS, she would also treat himself so on the like occasion, embitter'd all the Sweets of her Behaviour to his Rival ; and this Consideration, together with that of the Probability there was that ARSINOË would endeavour to prejudice him in the opinion of that Lady, made him defer for a time declaring the Passion he had for her ; but endur'd Agonies in this Restraint, which not all the Favours he receiv'd from ARSINOË could atone for.

But while he was thus languishing for ATTALINDA, and but vainly endeavouring to forget her in the Arms of ARSINOË, an Adventure happen'd to him ; which, if it did not wholly engross his Thoughts, took up so much of 'em, at least, as to make him industrious for an Explanation of it. One day, when he was abroad, a Letter was left for him by an unknown Person, in which he found these Lines.

To the Agreeable CLEOMENES.

‘ **I**F your Eyes do not very much belye
 ‘ your Heart, there is a stock of amo-
 ‘ rous Inclinations there, which it is im-
 ‘ possible

' possible for the faint Charms of ARSINOE
 ' to take wholly up.——I assure you there
 ' is a Lady, who looks on the regards you
 ' pay the Leavings of MAZARES, with a se-
 ' cret Contempt of the Choice you have
 ' made.——If therefore you do not think
 ' yourself bound to an eternal Constancy
 ' to one, who never had the least share of
 ' it in her own Soul, either to you or any
 ' other, cast your Eyes round the Circle,
 ' and give a proof of that Penetration you
 ' are so much fam'd for, by discovering in
 ' the Countenance the Heart which lan-
 ' guishes for you.——To direct your
 ' search, I must inform you that she is
 ' young, gay, a Woman of Quality, and,
 ' if the Opinion of the World may be
 ' taken, not unlovely.——She is every
 ' day at Court, it was there she first be-
 ' held you, and was charm'd; and to take
 ' from you all fears that her Passion aims
 ' at Marriage, to which I know you have
 ' an Aversion, she is already wedded, and
 ' can have no other view, than to prove
 ' herself

The most Lovely CLEOMENES'S

most Passionately Devoted.

There was nothing in this Billet more
 surprizing to him, than to find, that not
 only his Intrigue with ARSINOE was dis-
 cover'd,

cover'd, but also, that she had been the Mistress of MAZARES. She was by the generality of the World, taken for a Woman of the most severe Virtue that could be, and how this kind Unknown came to have so perfect a knowledge of her Humour and Affairs, seem'd to him the most astonishing thing in nature. He sometimes imagin'd it had been written by herself to try his Constancy, but then the Hand being vastly different, and the little probability there was she would use any other in such a Business, made him reject that Supposition. The Earnestness with which he look'd in the Face of every Lady in the Drawing-room, who had the least Conformity with the Person describ'd in the Letter, gave so much Diversion to her who wrote it, as half countervail'd the Vexation she was in, that he could not yet discover who she was.

In this Dilemma we must leave them for a short time, the more material Affairs of their Superiors having now found a turn as perplexing as unlook'd for.

The End of the Fourth Part.

P A R T



P A R T V.

ISMONDA had but just begun to taste the Sweets which Reconciliation yields, when a new and unexpected Interruption inform'd her no settled Tranquillity could be hoped for, in an Amour so doubly criminal as was hers. She was sitting in her Closet indulging the delightful Contemplation of rewarded Love, and the Perfections of her admired THEODORE, when LYSETTA told her a Person desired to be admitted, who said he came from *Anatolia*, and was commission'd by ADRASTUS to attend her. Tho' at every Message from that injur'd Husband, she felt Emotions which only the Guilty are capable of knowing; yet she was now seiz'd with an unusual Disorder, a Fluttering and Confusion of Spirit, which at that time she was unable to account for: She order'd, however, that the Person who occasion'd it should be introduced, which as soon as

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he was, he deliver'd her a Letter, in which he found these Words.

To my Regardless, but still Lov'd
ISMONDA.

‘ **H**OW great my Disappointment was
 ‘ to see the *Anatolian* Lords return
 ‘ without you, I need not go about to de-
 ‘ scribe; you know too well the tender
 ‘ Passion of my Soul, to be ignorant that
 ‘ nothing could be more afflicting, more
 ‘ severe.—You gave me, however, a reason
 ‘ for your stay, which, if real, I ought to
 ‘ be pleas’d with, tho’ I cannot approve;
 ‘ little less of Policy, and more of Love,
 ‘ would have made me bless’d; but that
 ‘ time is past, and I will therefore add no
 ‘ more on what cannot be recall’d; what is
 ‘ to come, is sufficient to take up all my
 ‘ Thoughts.—You have now no longer an
 ‘ excuse for absence, my Brother refuses to
 ‘ accept the Title of one of the *Magi*, and
 ‘ those Intercessions which have deprived
 ‘ me of you, are now as insignificant to
 ‘ my Interest, as they have been prejudi-
 ‘ cial to my Peace of Mind.—I beg,
 ‘ therefore, that you will set forward for
 ‘ *Anatolia* with all possible Expedition; I
 ‘ have sent a Person to conduct you, un-
 ‘ der whose care you might trust yourself
 ‘ a much greater Journey.—I can no
 ‘ longer

' longer live without you, and should you by
 ' any vain Pretence endeavour to delude my
 ' impatient Wishes, I should, regardless of
 ' my Ruin, and forgetful of what I owe my
 ' Royal Master, come in Person to bring
 ' you back—O therefore let me owe that to
 ' yourself, which else I am resolv'd to be in
 ' Possession of by my own Power, and that
 ' right the Law has given me over you.—
 ' I now *entreat* you as a *Lover*, but would
 ' have you remember, that when I please,
 ' I may exert the *Husband*, and *command*
 ' you.———Drive me not to Extremities,
 ' I conjure you, for the sake of both of us,
 ' but hasten to redeem that Character your
 ' late Behaviour has but too much forfeit-
 ' ed, and restore long absent Peace and Hap-
 ' piness to

Your passionately Tender and
 ever Faithful Husband,

ADRASTUS.

' *P. S.* One thing I had forgot, use me
 ' well in the Person of my Friend, pro-
 ' vide an Apartment near you, if you have
 ' not room for him in your own: he is
 ' entirely a Stranger in *Caramania*, and has
 ' no other Business there, than to oblige me
 ' in conducting you. Once more, my
 ' dearest ISMONDA, for a short time, *Adieu*.

Had a sudden peal of Thunder cleft the Palace-Roof, and threaten'd all beneath with instant Death, scarce could it have struck more terror into the guilty Soul of this Fair Criminal, than did the reading this Letter inflict on her.—She saw the Patience of her injur'd Lord was now entirely worn out, she was left without Excuse, or almost a possibility of continuing any longer in *Caramania*, and the thoughts of quitting her dear Prince, was something so terrible, that nothing is more strange, than that she had presence enough of Mind to restrain the bursting Grief from showing itself in her Countenance in the presence of this Person, who she easily perceiv'd was sent as a Spy on her Actions. She forc'd herself however to treat him with all imaginable Complaisance, and told him, that in every thing in her power she would testify the Love she bore ADRASTUS; and as he had desir'd in his Letter that he might be lodg'd near her, she would order an Apartment for him adjoining to her own: But, *said she*, I know not yet how far I may be able to comply with his Desires of returning to ANATOLIA; the Princess will, I know, exert her Authority to keep me with her, and ADRASTUS is not ignorant what we both owe to the Birth and Virtues of that excellent Lady, nor the Obligations I in particular have to her, both by Duty and the tenderest Affection.

Nor

Nor is the just ISMONDA to be told, *answer'd* *he*, how far all other Duties and Affections are to yield to those which Marriage makes : Nor can my Lord believe that Princess, who is herself so bright an Example of Conjugal Love, would, on any consideration, occasion a breach of it in others——But, I hope, *continu'd he*, there will be no need of Arguments to convince you how highly requisite it is you should return to a Husband to whom you are so dear, and who is resolv'd to be no longer separated from you. All things must give way to Necessity, *resum'd she coldly*, but, if you please, we will talk further of this Affair some other time. The fatigue of so long a Journey requires repose, my Servants shall conduct you to a Chamber, and in the mean time I will acquaint HYANTHE with the Business of your coming. In speaking these Words, she rang for her Attendants ; two of the Grooms of her Chamber immediately entering, she commanded them to shew the Stranger to the best of those Apartments she could call her own ; and, as she had said, went directly to the Princess, and communicated to her the whole Affair, telling her that nothing could be so afflicting to her, as the Thoughts of quitting her Service, and entreating, she would permit her stay ; and that she might not be forc'd from her, to intercede with the Prince for some Post of

Honour which might engage ADRASTUS to come also, and live with her in *Caramania*. The Princess paus'd some time before she made any Answer to this Request; and after she had, as she thought, justly weigh'd the Reasons of the other, I can never, *said she*, too gratefully acknowledge the Obligations I have to your Friendship, in preferring my Service to the Society of so tender a Husband as is ADRASTUS; I have many times reflected on so unexampled a Proof of your Regard for me, with all the Admirations it merits: but notwithstanding all this, my dear ISMONDA! the censorious World is of another Opinion; in spite of all the Arguments I can bring in your Vindication, they will ascribe your stay in *Caramania*, to other Motives than your Friendship for me. In fine, I need not repeat the unwelcome Name, ARIDANOR has the glory of inspiring you with Inclinations to the prejudice of ADRASTUS, nor do I see how it will be at all consistent with that Fame all Women of Virtue ought to endeavour to preserve, if you tarry longer from the Arms of that indulgent, yet impatient Husband.—Cou'd he, indeed, be prevail'd on to live among us, your Reputation, as well as his Desires, would be secur'd, and Friendship no longer be at variance with Duty. Oh it remains in you, my Gracious Princess! *reply'd ISMONDA*, to reconcile these seeming Opposites—
were

were half the Honours he enjoys in *Anatolia*, offer'd him in *Caramania*, I know he gladly would accept the Change—Influence therefore, I once more conjure you, the Royal THEODORE to make this Tryal of him; which if he should refuse, I shall have good cause to doubt his Love, not he to question mine. Well, *said* HYANTHE, to prove how unwilling I am to lose you but for your own Honour's sake, I will do as you desire, nor do I doubt to gain the Prince to equal all the Dignities your Husband is possess'd of through my Father's Favour—but I foresee the Proffer will be ineffectual, he will make the same Objection against leaving the Service of his Royal Master, as you have shew'd Reluctance to quit a Mistress—however, nothing on my part shall be left undone. ISMONDA had no time to answer this Condescension, any other-wise than by a low Reverence; some Ladies coming in, broke off the Conversation, and ISMONDA disengaging herself as soon as possible, went to seek the Prince, to relate what had pass'd, and prepare him for the Request HYANTHE had promis'd her to make him.

Nothing cou'd be more transporting to THEODORE than this new Proof of her Affection: He prais'd her Love and Wit in terms proportionable to the Idea he had of them, and told her, that as her Tenderneſs

had never yet fail'd to supply her with some pretence or other for an opportunity of suffering him to indulge his Passion; he doubted not but Fate would at last be kind, and by some unexpected Event, consent to bless their mutual Ardor, and save her the pains of farther Invention. Neither of them imagin'd ADRASTUS would quit his Interest in ANATOLIA, even tho the Prince of *Carmania* should offer him the half of his Dominions. The time therefore that ISMONDA could hope to gain by this Stratagem, was no longer than it would take up to send a Messenger to him, and receive an Answer from him; she then doubted not but she should a second time be remanded back, and 'twas probable, with greater absoluteness than before, and even in the mean time, must be oblig'd to preserve a much greater caution in her Behaviour than before the coming of this Spy she had occasion to do. The Prince therefore visited her not at home, and they were forc'd to enjoy the Society of each other in a more stolen and less frequent manner than ever, which gave Pains to both of them, which only a Lover equally restrain'd, equally impatient, can be capable of conceiving.

CLEARCHUS, for that was the Name of the Person commission'd by ADRASTUS, was for some time kept in play by the Subtlety of ISMONDA, being every day told by
that

that Lady, that all she did was for the advantage of her Husband, as well as her own Satisfaction, which she confess'd she could more perfectly enjoy in *Caramania*, than in *Anatolia*, tho' it were the place of her Nativity; because the Friendship she had for the Princess would not suffer her to part from her, if there were a possibility of avoiding it, without incurring the Displeasure of ADRASTUS.—Of how much force these kind of Discourses were on the Person to whom they were made, the Reader will, in a little time, be sensible; he made a show, however, of acquiescing to all she said; and she had no reason but to believe he was as much deceived by them as she could wish.

Thus did some Weeks pass over, till the amorous THEODORE, no longer able to live without a nearer Conversation with his beloved ISMONDA, than what a publick view afforded him, made an Appointment with her to pass some part of the Night in the Palace-Garden; which she, no less impatient and passionate than himself, consented to, well pleas'd. He feign'd himself a little indispos'd, and said he would lie on his own side, ordering the Captain of his Guard to suffer none to enter into his Apartment, till he received permission from himself. ISMONDA, who, since the arrival of CLEARCHUS, had never supp'd from
him,

him, made an excuse for doing it now, by telling him, that on the account of the Prince's absence, she was obliged to stay with the Princess till she fell asleep, and perhaps should not return to her Apartment till it was very late.—— Both of them having thus managed the Affair, came by back ways, unperceiv'd, as they imagin'd, by any Person, to the Rendezvous: But scarce had one fond Embrace proclaim'd the Joy which this meeting infused into the Souls of both, before a Voice, well-known to ISMONDA, cry'd out, At length art thou detected, thou vile Adulteress! thy Perjuries, thy Deceits at last laid open!—— A rustling thro' the Leaves accompany'd these Words, which prov'd the Person who spoke them was making his way as fast as he could to take other Revenge on those he had surpriz'd, than this Interruption could inflict; but being in a Walk on the back-side of that Arbor which the Lovers had made choice of, he found it impossible to reach them that way, and was coming round to meet them the other, when ISMONDA, who, even in this the greatest Exigence she had ever experienced, or that any Woman could be in, still retain'd her usual presence of Mind, prevented the Prince from drawing his Sword, as he was about to do, by saying in a low Voice, Think not of Revenge or Vindication, the only way for both of

us to secure our Loves and Reputations, is to fly.—It is my Husband whom I hear.—
ADRASTUS! *cry'd the Prince:* The same, *resumed she*; make to the Palace with all speed. Never was Confusion equal to that of **THEODORE**; scarce could he move, much less have the power of Thought what was best for him to do, till animated by her Words and Example, he follow'd her in the Path she took, which being a short Cut to the back Gate, by which she had enter'd, they soon approach'd it; when he turning to her, to ask how she would proceed, Take no care for me, my dearest Prince, *said she*, but go to your Apartment; I will hasten to that of the Princess, and perhaps order it so, that this may be of advantage to our Love, rather than the contrary. She stay'd not for any Answer, but ran directly to **HYANTHE'S**, and **THEODORE** pass'd forward to his own, in a Disorder and Perturbation of Spirit, which cannot be express'd. The Princess was in bed when **ISMONDA** came into the Anti-chamber; but some of her Ladies being there, she made an excuse, that she had design'd to sit by the Princess; but since she had no need of her attendance, she would stay a while with them. — One of them was employ'd in reading to the others a diverting Book, just then publish'd by some modern Wit; but what attention **ISMONDA** gave to it, may easily

easily be guess'd. This was, however, a good Opportunity for her to indulge Reflection, and give a little loose to the Amazement she was in: She thought herself perfectly certain, that it was the Voice of *ADRASTUS* she had heard, but how he had been concealed in *Caramania*, she could not imagine; if it were really him, and that he had follow'd her to the Garden, as she could not well doubt of both, she consider'd that there was no Relief, but an absolute Denial. She had carefully look'd round about, when she enter'd the Arbor, and was sure there was none near at that time; therefore it must be only Conjecture in him, that she was the Person whom he had surprized. She endeavour'd therefore all she could to overcome every thing that might denote Fear, which she believ'd was all that would make her appear guilty. In these Cogitations, we must quit her, to see what became of the Person who had occasion'd them.

ADRASTUS, for it was, indeed, no other, having, with much difficulty, at last prevail'd on the King of *Anatolia* to permit him to go in search of his Wife, too justly fearing there were Motives far different from those she pretended for her stay, accompany'd *CLEARCHUS* to *Caramania*, and being disguis'd in the Habit of a Servant, was entertain'd as one belonging to the

the Family of ISMONDA, where he had the opportunity of observing and knowing much more than ever would have reach'd his Ears had he appear'd as himself.——

Among that sort of Conversation in which he was now engaged, there is infinitely more to be learn'd than in any other: they talk without reserve of the Foibles of their Superiors, and being frequently oblig'd to be trusted, make no scruple of exchanging one Secret for another.——ADRASTUS soon perceiv'd the Genius of his new Acquaintance, and by relating to them some fictitious Adventures of his pretended Master, got from ARANTE and the rest of them all that they knew of the real ones of their Mistress; from that Wench he heard the Story which had so much occasion'd the Laughter of the Court, concerning the Captivity of ARIDANOR in the Closet of ISMONDA, and every body being possess'd with an Opinion of an Intrigue between them, a thousand little Circumstances, all Invention, were added to the Truth, and left him no room to hope but that she was really as guilty with him as was reported. Resolving, however, to be more assur'd before he discover'd himself, he watch'd her every motion, but till that night, had never seen any thing which could be call'd a proof of what he fear'd: but being told by CLEARCHUS that she had excus'd Supping at home
on

on account of the Princess, he was determin'd to know if in that she was sincere or not. As he was on the scout in one of the darkest and most retired Avenues of the Palace, he saw a Person muffled up in his Cloak pass hastily by him, and go into the Garden, and soon after ISMONDA hurry along the same way: Never was a Heart more rack'd than that of this unhappy Gentleman; the fears he had, that he should be ascertain'd of what he had yet but suspected, were more terrible to him than the suspense had been, and much ado had he to prevent himself from calling to her as she went, and saying to her, Come back ISMONDA, let not Detection prove me the Wretch I dread to be—Come back, and suffer me to retain the thought, that there is a possibility thou art not false. 'Tis probable, indeed, that had she not pass'd too quick to suffer her to take notice of any thing, some Word or Motion, in spite of him, had discover'd the Emotions of his Soul, and awaken'd Observation to inspect into the Cause. Seeing her enter the Garden, where but the moment before he had seen the Person, whom he mistook for ARIDANOR, but was indeed the Prince, had gone, he made no doubt but that it was an Affignation. The different Passions with which he was agitated at but the supposition of the Injury he was about to suffer, render'd him unable immediately

diately to assure himself; but rousing, as much as possible, from that Lethargy of Thought he had been in, he also push'd back the Wicket, and went into the Garden: but there being two Walks which met at that Entrance, he was uncertain which it was, they, whom he sought, had took; and happening to make choice of the wrong, could neither see nor hear any thing of them till he came to that Arbor, where being no Passage on the side he was, he but vainly endeavour'd to get through, when he cry'd out to them in the manner already mention'd, and occasion'd their flight. The way being twice as long from where he was to the Arbor, as it was from it to the Palace, they had time to settle themselves, as I have represented, before he could arrive at the place where he first perceiv'd they were. He spent some hours, after he found they were gone, in giving vent to the Distraction he was in, at this plain Demonstration of his Misfortune. Vex'd he was that he had discover'd himself, since he had been prevented from appearing in the manner he had design'd to do, and it was now too late for him to resume his disguise, not doubting but that ISMONDA had known his Voice.— He wish'd he had remain'd yet a little longer time conceal'd, but then reflecting that he already had seen enough, and needed no more to be convinc'd of the Infidelity of
that

that fair Hypocrite, he ceas'd to be uneasy at the Interruption he had given, and bent his whole Thoughts on Revenge, and the manner in which he would accomplish it. At his return to the Palace, he went to the Chamber of CLEARCHUS, where being inform'd she was not yet come home, he dress'd himself in one of those Habits he had been accustom'd to wear when he was call'd ADRASTUS, and as soon as he was ready, sent a Page to search for her, who having heard her say she was going to HY-ANTHE, went no farther than the Apartment of that Princess, and having acquainted her with his Message, and from whom he receiv'd it, she summon'd all the Courage she was Mistress of to arm her for this Encounter ; and having prepar'd herself beyond Imagination, she flew to the Room where she was told he was, and preventing his approach to her, threw her Arms about his Neck, crying, My dear ADRASTUS, by what Miracle is it that I behold you here ? Has my good Angel whisper'd in your Ear the good I am about to do for you, and you thus kindly come and spare me the pains of sending ? Yes, Madam, *answer'd he, disengaging himself as soon as possible from her Caresses, and turning from her with a Countenance which denoted the mingled Rage and Grief of his tormented Soul, I am too well satisfy'd what it is you do for me ;*

me; and after the knowledge that you have been false, nothing could so much astonish me, as that there is a possibility for Vice, like yours, to wear the shape of Virtue.—Good Heaven, *pursu'd he wildly*, why do you suffer that Face still to retain its show of Innocence? Why is not her Form grown black and horrid, like her polluted Soul? some publick mark of Infamy should appear to warn unwary Gazers from her destructive Charms.—Oh all ye Gods of *Caramania*, *interrupted she*, and *offering to take his Hand*, what sudden Frenzy has possess'd my Lord? Off thou Adulteress, *resum'd he*, *throwing her from him*, well may'st thou call on foreign Deities, thy own have long since forsaken thee—when for the Embraces of a Stranger, the curs'd ARIDANOR, thou did'st refuse those of a once fond doating Husband.—Shame, and the worst of Crimes has been thy Choice, and Hell and Horrour shall reward thee for it. Not all the Terror which conscious Guilt had before involv'd her in, was equal to the Joy she now conceiv'd at his mistake. Innocent of this Accusation, she threw off the supplicating Air she had put on, and assuming one all haughtiness, Unjust ADRASTUS, *said she*, is it thus that you return the Obligations you have to me? Am I, for having preserv'd my Honour inviolable from all the Artifices, nay, combated

even with the Force of that seducing Lord, to be reproached?—Injurious Man, never will I forgive the wrong thou hast done me, nor, should'st thou repent of what thou hast said in Rivers of incessant Tears, any more will know thee by the Name of Husband, or share the Bed of one who has so much profaned my Virtue. Scarce could he contain himself in hearing her speak in this manner, from expressing his Rage in something more violent than Words.—More than once he laid his Hand upon his Sword, but CLEARCHUS restrain'd him from going farther—O more than Impudence, *cry'd he, stamping and walking about the Room in a disorder'd motion*—Language has no Name to distinguish this Behaviour, which would not wrong the monstrous Meaning—had not my own Eyes and Ears betray'd the horrid Secret, I know not but in spite of all I have been told, my foolish Heart would yet have doubted if she had been base—But to give the lye to all my Senses, nay, when her own have inform'd her that they have been Witnesses of her Crime, is something which sure she could not have learn'd in any School but that of Hell.—Were not your perfidious Arms, *continu'd he, turning to her*, close lock'd about the Adulterer's Neck?—Did not short Sighs and mingling Kisses proclaim a mutual eagerness for the guilty Joy, when my abus'd Patience,

no

no longer able to endure the shocking Scene, made me break out, and vainly struggle for a Passage to reach the hated Heart of your Undoer ? All a Madman's Dream, *reply'd she scornfully* ; When or where was I so kind ? Can you deny it ? *said he* : Was it not now, this very Night, in the Palace-Garden ?——Oh ! had you not both been too well acquainted with the Place, my Rage had overtaken your flight, and put you past the power of urging me yet more by so obstinate a Contradiction——but it is not yet too late, *added he*, and such Examples will I make——Compose yourself to sleep, *resum'd she*, and to-morrow I will talk with you before those who are better Judges of my Conduct. In speaking this, she flung out of the Room, CLEARCHUS preventing him from detaining her, and half persuaded of her Innocence, with so much Serenity and unshaken Temper had she behav'd : Are you certain, my Lord ! *said he to him*, that you have not been deceiv'd ? to me, Appearances on her side stand fair ; she told me she was going to the Apartment of the Princess, and it was there, when sent for, she was found : With what probability then could it be she whom you saw in the Palace-Garden ? you might probably be deceiv'd by the faint glimmerings of the uncertain Moon, and having the Image of ISMONDA ever present to your Eyes, might, with ease, mistake

some other for her. This Suggestion of CLEARCHUS made him perfectly outrageous; what, *said he*, do my very Friends conspire against me, and take the Wanton's part?—How could I be deceiv'd, when free from Passion, and scarce believing my Misfortune, she pass'd so close to the place in which I stood, a little nearer and she had discover'd me? it was not by the Moon's faint light I saw her then, but by the unerring Lamps which fill the Palace-Gallery. He added many more Circumstances, which but too plainly prov'd he could not have been mistaken, and after passing the remainder of the night in Discourses suitable to the Occasion, he wrote a little Note to ARIDANOR, which he oblig'd CLEARCHUS to carry to him, the Contents whereof were as follows.

To ARIDANOR.

“AS you are conscious of having injur'd me, so are you also sensible what kind of Reparation is expected from a Man of Honour: As I am too much a Stranger in *Caramania* to know what place is most proper for such an Interview, I leave it to your appointment, as also whether with or without Seconds; tho' since the quarrel concerns none but ourselves, I think it needless to interest any other in it: however, if you are of a different Opinion, I am not unprovided of a
 ‘ Friend,

‘ Friend, please to let me know your Re-
 ‘ solution by the Bearer, and also where
 ‘ about an hour hence I may hope to find
 ‘ you.—Tho a Stranger to my Person, I
 ‘ believe you have heard too much of my
 ‘ Character to think me unworthy of your
 ‘ Sword, when I shall inform you I am
 ‘ call’d

ADRASTUS.

Loth was CLEARCHUS to be the Bearer
 of this Mandate, yet as the Affair seem’d to
 be, could offer nothing in opposition to it ;
 he therefore went about the execution of his
 Commission, but found some difficulty in
 being introduced to the presence of ARI-
 DANOR, who was not yet risen : however,
 on telling the Servant that his Business was
 of a nature which would not brook delay,
 he was admitted. He deliver’d the Billet to
 him while he was in Bed, and having read
 it, heard him call for Pen and Paper imme-
 diately, and in a small time receiv’d an An-
 swer from his own Hand ; which returning
 with to ADRASTUS, he communicated to
 him : it contain’d these Words.

To ADRASTUS.

‘ **T**H O I am as much a Stranger to the
 ‘ Guilt of which you seem to accuse
 ‘ me, as I am to your Person, and cannot
 ‘ imagine by what means I should possibly

‘ have injur’d one so much a Stranger, yet
 ‘ am I ready to give you what Satisfaction
 ‘ you shall think proper ; which, that you
 ‘ may the better judge, I will meet you in
 ‘ the Wilderness, behind the Palace-Gar-
 ‘ den, within this Hour at furthest. — I
 ‘ am of your mind, that there is no occasion
 ‘ for Witnesses of what we have to say, and
 ‘ shall therefore come alone.

ARIDANOR.

He has answer’d like a Man of Honour,
 nor could any other, *said* ADRASTUS, *with*
a Sigh, have deprived me of the Affections
 of ISMONDA : he pass’d some little time in
 Discourses of the same nature, after which
 he embrac’d CLEARCHUS, and went to the
 place appointed, where he had not walk’d
 above the Space of a minute, before he saw
 ARIDANOR approach ; he had the advan-
 tage as having seen him while he remain’d
 with CLEARCHUS in disguise, but ARIDA-
 NOR who knew him not, was at a loss whe-
 ther he was his Antagonist or not, till pluck-
 ing off his Hat and approaching him, You
 are punctual, my Lord ! *said he*, nor did I
 expect other from your Character ; the Man
 who dares commit an Injury, should also
 dare as boldly to defend it. Yes, ADRASTUS,
reply’d ARIDANOR, nor is it that I fear
 your Sword that I desire some Speech before
 we engage, but because those Actions can-
 not

not, with justice, be call'd brave, to which we are only instigated by our Passions; I should be glad to know the Reason why we are Enemies. Oh ye Gods! *cry'd the other, transported with Rage*, is that a Question for ARIDANOR to ask the Husband of ISMONDA?—Can he believe me ignorant of the wrong he has done me?—Or does he insult the Shame he has brought on me, and would make me the Reporter of my own Infamy? ADRASTUS, *resum'd he*, I have not wrong'd you—but since you have nam'd ISMONDA, I am no longer at a loss to guess the Cause of your too justifiable, tho mistaken Rage ——— O! *contin'd he, after a pause*, that you knew me better, that you might not think 'twas Cowardice prompted my Tongue, I would reveal a Secret.—Speak it, *interrupted ADRASTUS*, your Fame in Battle has been too well establish'd to suffer such a Thought—if there be aught concerning my Dishonour more than yet I know, be generous and tell me. You yet know nothing, *reply'd ARIDANOR*, but are abus'd by false Intelligence; but longer shall you not—I have consider'd, and find 'twould be meer Madness, and not Bravery, to suffer you to continue in a Mistake which might not only be fatal to one or both of us, but also add new Triumphs, and full Security to the fair false ISMONDA, and her great Seducer———for

should you fall by me, or I by you, the Death of either would be welcome Tidings; by mine, they would be rid of, perhaps, the only Person who has it in his power to betray their Secret; and by yours, the fears of Separation would no more disturb the guilty Pair.

I will not therefore fight with thee, A-
 DRASTUS, on this Theme, at least not till
 you have heard the Truth.—— O speak
 it, *cry'd the distracted Husband!* my Soul
 is all Astonishment; if I have been de-
 ceiv'd, and wrong'd your Virtue, I will en-
 treat your Pardon in the humblest manner.
 Calm the tempestuous Passions of your
 Grief, if possible, *resum'd* ARIDANOR; you
 have not wrong'd me, neither am I guilty;
 I am, and am not innocent——well may
 you seem amazed, but soon will I explain
 the Mystery.—— Know then, ISMONDA
 scorns to sin beneath a Prince; and had
 there not been a THEODORE, ADRASTUS
 would have had no room for suspicion of
 ARIDANOR. Here the impatient Soul of
 this afflicted Man was able to contain no
 longer; but casting a furious Look, and lift-
 ing up his Hands, as tho' he would accuse
 Heaven of his Misfortune, Gods! Gods!
cry'd he, can it be possible?—— The
 Prince!—— the Husband of HYANTHE at-
 tempt the Honour of her Friend, her Bo-
 som Favourite!—— But tell me, *continued*
he,

he, turning his Eyes on ARIDANOR, inform me, generous Lord, the whole of this vile Secret; let me not linger in a Life of Torment, but kill me at once with assuring me 'tis so. I wish that I could say there was a hope it were not, *resumed the other*; but because it would be mean-soul'd in me to reveal the Crimes of others, while I conceal my own, I will confess, that when the knowledge of the Prince's Happiness made bold my hopes, I too presumed to talk to her of Love; but with such force did she repel my Suit, that soon I dropp'd the fruitless Prosecution. Yet one thing more I have to ask, *said* ADRASTUS, and I conjure you, by your Honour, hide not the Truth: Were you not late last Night in the Gardens of the Palace? No, by Heaven, *answered* ARIDANOR; but as I cross'd the Gallery, I saw your royal Rival close muffled in his Cloak, and unattended, pass that way.—'Twas him then I mistook for you, *cry'd the tormented* ADRASTUS; Oh that my Sword unknowing him had reach'd his Heart!—Oh that I were still in ignorance by whom I am abus'd! some lucky Moment might then have thrown me on him, and I might have taken that just Revenge on the Destroyer of my Honour, which now the Name of THEODORE debars me from — were it any other than the Husband of
 Hy-

HYANTHE, tho' guarded by the brightest of the celestial Beings, he should not 'scape my Rage.——Damnation! *pursued he*, all other Curses of the offended Gods, are mean to bearing Injuries as I must do.

A considerable time was pass'd between the one, relating all he knew of this Adventure; and the other, in exclaiming on the Severity of his Fate, and the Falshood of ISMONDA: After which they parted, and ADRASTUS return'd to the Apartment of his Wife, who he found abroad; she was gone to the Princess, to acquaint her with the arrival of ADRASTUS, and his unjust Suspicions of her. He had scarce finished the account he was giving to CLEARCHUS, of what had pass'd between him and ARIDANOR, when one of the Princess's Pages came to let him know she expected to see him; having been inform'd his Wife was already with her, he doubted not but she had made her Complaint to that deceiv'd Lady, and was in a Perplexity which cannot be describ'd, in what manner he should defend his Accusations against her, without, at the same time, proclaiming the Guilt of the Prince; which not only the Admonitions of CLEARCHUS, but his own Reason also persuaded him it was wholly improper to do. The Affair was nice, and in the present Confusion of his Thoughts, he found himself incapable of managing it; yet

yet was there an absolute Necessity of obeying the Summons of a Princess, who was the Daughter of his Master. He therefore compos'd himself as much as possible to attend her. He found her in her Closet entirely alone, ISMONDA having entreated not to be present during this Conversation. How comes it, ADRASTUS, *said she, as soon as he approached*, that you have conceal'd yourself in *Caramania*? I thought the Love and Duty you pay my royal Father, had extended to all belonging to him, and that the first Visit you had made, had been to me. Pardon, bright Princess! *answer'd he*, this seeming neglect of that Regard due to your high Birth, and more illustrious Virtues; but there were Reasons for the Concealment of my Arrival, which could not be dispensed with, and which have made me guilty of Omissions both to Heaven and you. I fear those Reasons, *said HYANTHE*, are such as cannot be approv'd by the Well-wishers of your Fame, or Peace of Mind: I hear, and grieve to hear, strange Stories of your alter'd Humour.—Believe me, ADRASTUS, Jealousy is the worst Passion of the Soul, and when 'tis causeless, is an Offence to Virtue scarcely pardonable. I am of the same opinion, Madam, *answer'd he*; and because I would not give it entrance, endeavour'd to arrive at certainty.—And how far

far have you succeeded? *interrupted the Princess.*

Now was this unhappy Husband in the utmost Dilemma, in what manner to reply: but a sudden Thought coming that moment into his head, after a moment's Pause; So far, Madam, *answer'd he*, as has serv'd to convince me that I have been deceiv'd by false Reports, and have injur'd by an unjust Suspicion——ARIDANOR. He was going to say his Wife, but could not force his Tongue so much to belye his Heart. And not ISMONDA too? *demand'd the Princess.* When she returns to *Anatolia*, *resum'd he*, what my opinion is of her, will shew itself.——I therefore beseech your Highness, *continued he*, *putting one Knee to the Ground*, that you will no longer countenance her stay, nor suffer her to skreen under your sacred Umbrage the little Regard she has testify'd to my Desires. Far be it from me, *reply'd she*, who am myself a Wife, to go about to hinder one who is a Wife from that Obedience the Name of Husband claims; but as I would not have her wanting in her Duty, so I hope you will remember there is also some required from you, and not by harsh Treatment, or too great an Exertion of your Authority oblige her to repent she ever put it in your power. Here the Memory of the former Tenderness he had
had

had expressed to her, and her Ingratitude since, made him shake with inward Agony. How I have behav'd, Madam, *said he*, yourself has been a Witness.— In what manner I shall behave, will be owing to her Actions. I comprehend not the meaning of these mysterious Words, *reply'd the Princess, who was entirely prepossess'd by what that subtle Woman had said to her*; you seem to have still a reserve of Indignation in your Soul, which may make her fear the Usage I have mention'd: And as her Friendship for me has been her only Crime, it lies on me to engage her Pardon; which you must give, *ADRASTUS, pursued she smiling*, or I shall think you look on me as a Rival. I neither can, nor ought, *answered he*, to refuse any thing to the Daughter of my Sovereign, and a Princess illustrious for a thousand Virtues, but most for her heavenly Sweetness of Disposition; and while *ISMONDA* has had so bright a Pattern, methinks it is impossible she should have err'd.— I insist therefore on no more than that she prepare with all expedition to depart with me for *Anatolia*.

The Princess, well pleased with thinking she had brought about this Reconciliation, endeavour'd to persuade him to continue with them in *Caramania*, assuring him that the Prince her Husband would
put

put him into Posts of Honour equivalent to those he enjoy'd in *Anatolia*. But before his Tongue could bring forth a refusal of this Offer, his Looks demonstrated how unwelcome it was to him. At the Name of THEODORE, scarce could he refrain from uttering all he knew, and the Reasons that Prince had for engaging his stay; but the regard he had for the Quiet of the happily deceived HYANTHE, prevented him: and he only excused himself from accepting any Favours offer'd him by her Husband, on the account of those he had received from her Father, whose Service, while he could be of any use to him, Gratitude he said would not permit him to leave. Though the Princess, truly loving ISMONDA, urg'd him as strenuously as the Case would permit, yet could she alledge but little, besides her own Desires, against the Justice of those Arguments he made use of to back his Denial, and she was oblig'd at last to own that he was in the right, and consent to discharge ISMONDA from her Service.

ADRASTUS had no sooner disengaged himself from the Princess, than he return'd to the Apartment of his Wife, where he communicated to CLEARCHUS every particular of the Conversation which had pass'd between him and HYANTHE; but when he came to that which related the promise of his Pardon to ISMONDA, and his design of
taking

taking her with him to *Anatolia*, nothing could be more amaz'd, than was his Friend: And can you then, *said he, interrupting him*, so readily forgive what but some hours since you swore, that to the last Moments of your Life, you would endeavour to revenge?—Does the Name of Prince so far alleviate the Guilt, that you can consent to live again with the false fair ISMONDA? A gloomy Smile at this Interrogation diffused itself around the Mouth of this offended Husband; No, CLEARCHUS! *resumed he*, think not so meanly of ADRASTUS, 'tis to accomplish that Revenge, at which I can arrive no other way, that I affect this Patience, this tame forgiving Nature.—Should I leave her in *Caramania*, what more could the adulterous Pair desire? But I will divide them—divide them for ever—give them to know some part of the Hells they have on me inflicted—and to prevent a second Injury of this kind from any other Man, soon as she arrives in *Anatolia*, shall she be immur'd among the Vestals. The Surprize which CLEARCHUS had at first conceiv'd, was now succeeded by an adequate Admiration; he applauded his Conduct, and encouraged him in this Resolution, with all the Eloquence he was master of.

While they were talking, ISMONDA, who by the Princess had been inform'd of what
he

he said, came in; and with an Air of Haughtiness, with which she, but in vain, endeavour'd to mingle a little Sweetness: Now, my Lord, *said she*, I hope you are convinced of the Injury your mistaken Rage has done me, and are prepar'd to ask my pardon. We will talk no more, Madam, *reply'd he*, either of Injuries or Pardon, it will be time enough when we come to *Anatolia*; and the greater speed you make in getting ready for this Journey, the more I shall be inclinable to think you with a more perfect Reconciliation between us, than can be made in *Caramania*. I know not, *said she*, whether I shall accept it on those terms, or not. And with these Words left the Room, refusing to hold any further Conversation with him, tho' he call'd after her to assure her he would afford it on no other, nor would consent to bed with her, or call her by the name of Wife, while she continued in *Caramania*.

Nor did he stagger in this Resolution, but went with CLEARCHUS immediately out of the Palace, and took private Lodgings at some distance from it. Nothing certainly ever equal'd the Perplexity of ISMONDA at this sudden turn of her Fate, unless it were that in which her belov'd THEODORE was involv'd. Neither of them could now invent the least plausible Pretext, ADRASTUS had refus'd all Offices which might detain him

him in *Caramania* ; the Princess had given her Consent that ISMONDA should depart, and there appear'd no way of preventing this Misfortune to their Love, but such as must have open'd the Eyes not only of the Princess, but the whole Nation also, to see into the long hid Secret. MARMILLIO was now a Person whose Presence and Advice was thought exceeding necessary, and the Prince was beginning to think by what means he should recall him, without the Eclat of his restoration into Favour being prejudicial to himself ; when CLEOMENES acquainted him, that his Brother having receiv'd News that IRENE had died in Childbirth, desired nothing more than his Highness's Permission to return.

This was welcome News to THEODORE, he sent an immediate dispatch that he should come with all possible expedition, giving out among his Courtiers, that as that Favourite had incurr'd his displeasure only for a rash Word, he thought he had sufficiently punish'd him for so trivial a Fault. Nor did this Alteration impede his Desires of seeing EURIDICE the Bride of DORASPE, but on the contrary, it very much forward-ed that Marriage ; for ARBANES, by the return of MARMILLIO, being frustrated of the Expectations with which he had flatter'd himself of being the chief Favourite of his Sovereign, and receiving the consequential

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Benefits of such a Trust, thought it best not to neglect that only means which now remain'd of advancing his Family, by an Alliance with one so powerful as that of **DORASPE**; and since Death had disappointed his Son **ERNESTUS** of his hope of **IRENE**, he was resolv'd for the future never to leave any thing to Time or Chance, and hurry'd the slow **EURIDICE** to Nuptials, which in her Soul were little less detestable to her than the Grave.

MARMILLIO had many Friends who truly lov'd him, and sincerely rejoic'd at his Re-establishment; but theirs was a Joy faint and languid, when compar'd with that which fill'd the Soul of the transported **ARILLA**. The News of it no sooner reach'd her Ears, than she again indulg'd the pleasing Idea of rewarded Passion——again prepar'd to meet the Joys of Love——and her heav'd Bosom swell'd with renew'd Desires; but alas! little did the false Man merit so true a Passion: Far different from her Expectations, were the Caresses with which he now receiv'd her Ardors!——Absence had quite estrang'd his fickle Heart, and a new Object obliterated almost the Memory of the former.

While depriv'd of the Pleasures of the Court, he cou'd not live without his Amusements; being invited after a Hunting Match, to the House of a wealthy Commoner in that part of the Country which he had chose
for

for his Retirement, he became so much enamour'd of the fair CARICLEA, the Wife of that Gentleman to whom he was a Guest, that the Idea of ARILLA, to whom he had been so much devoted, soon lost all the Empire over his Soul.—Perfectly skill'd in the undoing Art, he exerted all for the obtaining this new Conquest, and the unwary Listner, too weakly guarded, became a Prey to his destructive Insinuations. The unsuspecting Husband, far from guessing at the Motive which occasion'd the frequent Visits he now receiv'd from him, took them as so many Proofs of his Friendship, and was transported at the deference paid him by a Man of MARMILLIO's Quality, from all the other Gentlemen of the County. He had a young Sister equally lovely with CARICLEA, tho' of another sort of Beauty; this blooming Creature, when MARMILLIO found himself recall'd to Court, he persuaded to go with him, telling her, he would introduce her to the Service of the Princess, which would not only improve her in Conversation, but also throw her in the way of Fortune: there was no doubt, he said, but Charms such as hers would appear, when set forth to advantage, might make up for the deficiencies of Birth, and entitle her to a Husband among the first Rank of the Nobility. CARICLEA seem'd of the same Opinion, and infusing some

Principles of Ambition into the Mind of the young Girl, made her continually tease her Brother for his Consent ; which he at last gave, on Condition his Wife would accompany her, and see her settled with the Princess before she left her. This was all that the guilty Pair desir'd ; MARMILLIO not yet grown weary of the Charms of CARICLEA, and divided between his Love Interest, had form'd this Stratagem for the Gratification of both ; and the Fair Transgressor was infinitely pleas'd, to think how freely she might indulge her Passion when absent from her Husband, who, by reason of a publick Office he bore in the Country, cou'd not leave it.

Depending therefore on the Virtue of his Wife, he gave his Sister wholly to her Care as to her Behaviour, and recommending her Preferment to MARMILLIO, who had promis'd such great Things, suffer'd them to take leave without the least suspicion of what they design'd, or that the innocent Maid was the Property which they made use of for no other purpose than his Dishonour.

For some time after they came to Court, CARICLEA maintain'd her Empire over the Heart of him who had brought her to it ; and when it decreas'd, ARILLA profited not by the Change : nothing being more true than that Saying of an *English* Poet ;

To

*To Love once past we cannot backward
move;*

Call Yesterday again, and I may love.

Few Men, if ever any were, are twice enamour'd of the same Object; their whole Life indeed is one continued Series of Change, but then it is still to new Desires: the Heart that is once estrang'd, is never to be recall'd; and though the forsaken Nymph is sure to have her present Rival in the same Condition with herself, yet must she not hope to reap any other Advantage, than Revenge. ARILLA soon perceiv'd she owed her Misfortune to the Beauties of CARICLEA, and had Wit enough to know that Complaints would be of little service to establish her in the Affections of this ungrateful Man. Unable therefore to endure the sight of what was so distracting to her, she quitted the Service of the Princess, and retired to the House of a Relation in the Country, with a Resolution never to return, unless her Reason could so far get the better of her Passion, as to give her Courage to look on all he did with the Eyes of Indifference and Contempt.

Her removal made room for VIOLETTA, so was the Sister of the Husband of CARICLEA called: And MARMILLIO, as much to leave that Lady (whose absence he now

began to wish, as much as he had done her presence) no pretence of staying, as to comply with the Promise he had made her Husband, neglected not this opportunity of introducing this young Beauty. There were no Obstacles to her reception, she was well accomplish'd, and of a Family inferiour to none, who were not of the Nobility. HY-ANTHE accepted her with her usual Affability and Sweetness, and assured CARICLEA, who accompany'd her to the Presence-Chamber; that there were none among her Train of noble Maids, whom she would treat with greater Kindness,

VIOLETTA thus fix'd at Court, CARICLEA was oblig'd to return home, and sav'd herself the Grief of being forsaken: The necessity of her Departure engaging MARMIL- LIO to entertain her with the appearance of the same Ardours, as those with which he first seduced her easy Heart; and she parted with this Satisfaction in her mind, that she left him involv'd in equal Sorrow, and that his Inclinations would bring him in a short time to visit her.

Next to the fear'd IRENE, nothing had ever given him more Pleasure, than to be freed from ARILLA, and this last Conquest of his victorious Wiles: he was now at liberty to prosecute a new Design, which his ever-waving Passion had form'd against the the Virtue of OLIMPIA, a young Lady of
ex-

exquisite Beauty and Accomplishments, but esteem'd a Man-hater, and 'tis probable the difficulty that appear'd in gaining her, was no less an inducement to him than any other Charm.——He long'd to triumph over so rigid a Virtue——He thought it would be an infinite Satisfaction to know himself possess'd of what so many had languish'd for in vain, and resolv'd to leave no means untry'd to bring her into the number of those who were unable to withstand his Sollicitations. Many proposals greatly to the advantage of her Fortune had been made her, yet was she so far from accepting them, that tho' she had, at the first acquaintance with them, declar'd a liking of their Conversation, they no sooner appear'd as Lovers, than she immediately despis'd and us'd them ill; and to prevent all further Importunities of the like nature, at last treated the whole Sex with a Contempt which was scarce reconcileable to Good Breeding. MARMILLIO had frequently been in her Company, and had found the Effects of this Humour in common with the rest of Mankind, yet did it not deter him; and setting himself to dive into the secret of a Disposition so foreign to all that is natural, he thought it must proceed either from a secret Passion she had entertain'd for some one Man, that had created in her an aversion to all others; or else, that it was no more

than Affectation, and that she imagin'd by seeming to *Hate*, she might give the greater loose to *Love*, unperceiv'd and unsuspected. His Business therefore, was to find out which of these two Motives was the right; but by what means he should make this Discovery, he was for some time at a loss; and was indeed at last indebted for it only to an Accident as whimsical in effect, as it was ruinous to the Honour and future Reputation of this seemingly reserv'd Lady.

Happening to pass by her House one Night when it was very late, he saw the Door wide open, and no Servant near it, nor any Light appearing at the Windows, he presently imagin'd it might have been broken open by Thieves; and having two Men with him, he made them go into the Hall, and call to the Footmen, but none answering for a long time, he grew convinc'd that his Conjectures had been true, and made yet a louder Noise. At length a Fellow came running down stairs half naked, and with all the marks of fright and astonishment on his Face, Are any of the Family beside your self, *said* MARMILLIO, awake? No, my Lord, *answer'd he*. Your Lady then, *resum'd he*, is doubtless robb'd: And then told him in what manner he had seen the Door, and the occasion of his coming in at that unseasonable hour. On which, the Fellow
ran

ran up stairs to call his Companions, who being all soundly sleeping, were not very easy to be rouz'd from it.—All the Men, and Maid-Servants, being at last alarm'd, they went up and down the House with Lights, endeavouring to discover at what place the Rogues had enter'd, or what they had taken away. OLIMPIA's Woman ran into her Chamber, to apprize her Lady of what had happen'd; but not finding her there, shriek'd out, that the Thieves had stole away her Lady: on which, every body going into that Room, they found it stripp'd of all the rich Things in it, which could conveniently be carry'd away; her dressing Plate, a fine Watch and Equipage, which, at her going to Bed, were always hung in a Case made on purpose for them; her Cabinet broken open, and her Jewels and Money taken out. There was indeed sufficient in this Room to glut the Avarice of these nocturnal Pilferers; and either being satisfy'd with their Booty, or fearful of Discovery, they went into no other, as might be suppos'd; for every thing stood as it did in all the other Apartments. As MARMILLIO, with the Servants of this Lady, were searching the House, one of them cry'd out, that the Door which open'd into the Garden was unbarr'd; on which the rest going toward it, found it was so indeed, and were then no longer at a loss by what means

means the Rogues had gotten entrance : every one, however, MARMILLIO especially, being in great Concern what was become of OLIMPIA, some of the Footmen ran with lighted Torches into the Garden, where in a close Arbor they found her bound and gagg'd, and, to their great amazement, the ugliest and most dirty of her Grooms in the same posture. Scarce would the wonder which they all were involv'd in, permit them to deliver her from that uneasy State ; but MARMILLIO, who had more Presence of Mind, was the first who gave her any Assistance, and taking the Gag out of her Mouth, restor'd her to the use of Speech, while the others were busily employ'd in unfastning the Cords which had rudely been twisted round her Legs and Arms. It was expected that she would have related to them, so soon as she had power, how she came to be thus expos'd, but she appear'd in too great a Confusion to do it ; and when MARMILLIO, having his own secret Reasons for the Question, ask'd her how it came to pass that she chose so odd and so dangerous an hour for walking, she answer'd nothing. And when he more maliciously demanded, if it were with her knowledge that the Groom was in the Garden at the same time her Ladyship had chose to make it the place of her Retirement, she seem'd ready to die with Shame and

and Vexation; and instead of thanking MARMILLIO for the timely assistance he had given her, she flung abruptly from him, crying, I cannot imagine what Accident or Design should bring you here at this time. He endeavour'd not to stay her, nor had any further business to remain there any longer himself, but went thro' the House, and into his Chair, impatient till he was at home, to examine the Contents of a small piece of Paper which he had taken up in the Arbor of OLIMPIA's Garden, and lay near the Groom; and which, 'twas probable, the Thieves in rifling his Pockets had let fall. He had no sooner enter'd his Closet, than opening it, he found it contain'd these Lines.

' Tho' I have turn'd away the Wench,
' whose inquisitive Disposition gave me
' just cause of Fear, yet am I still apprehensive of discovery, by some unlucky
' Accident or other.— We cannot, my
' dear SILO, be perfectly secure, while we
' continue our Endearments in my Chamber; I will therefore quit my Bed when
' all the Family are drown'd in sleep, and
' steal down to the close Arbor at the farther end of the Garden, where I shall expect you with all the Impatience of the
' most doating Affection.'

Doating, indeed, *cry'd MARMILLIO to himself, as soon as he had done reading;*
was

was ever such monstrous Hypocrisy ! 'Tis certain, that tho' he had not that opinion of her Virtue, which the generality of the World had, yet he could never imagine she would have stoop'd so low as her own Groom, if he had not seen the Confirmation of it under her own hand, which he knew perfectly well, having often seen it on several Occasions. He could not forbear laughing, however, when he consider'd on the whimsicalness of this Adventure : It was plain, that the Thieves coming over the Wall with a design to rob the House, had found the Mistress of it with her humble Enamorato in that Arbor ; and having bound and gagg'd them, found an easy opportunity to compass their Design.

Having a little given way to the Diversion of his Humour on this comical Affair, his more serious Inclinations resumed some part of their former force : I say, some part ; for after the knowledge how much OLIMPIA had demean'd herself, he had not those passionate Desires for her Enjoyment as before. It was Curiosity, and perhaps some mixture of a more base Passion, which made him now resolve not to relinquish his Pretensions ; and encourag'd by the discovery he had made, press'd on her in so close a manner, that it oblig'd her to make use of all the Invectives she could muster up against the Sex, to make him desist :
and

and perceiving that those Artifices, which had been fatal to so many of the believing Fair, had no influence on her, he grew at last so piqued; that, without any regard to her Quality, or those Vows of an eternal Adoration he had made her, he upbraided her with Hypocrisy and Deceit; and to prove that he knew her pretended Virtue all a Cheat, reveal'd to her by what means he had been acquainted with the Condescensions with which she had favour'd SILO, and threaten'd to make the Affair publick to the whole Town, if she consented not to bribe him in the manner he desir'd. Nothing can be imagin'd of Fear, Vexation, and Surprize, superiour to what OLIMPIA endur'd in this shock; at first she raged, forswore all he alledged, and branded him with Injustice and Barbarity, in terms the most opprobrious that Passion could suggest: but all she said having no other effect, than to make him more resolute to expose her, she fell into as mean Submissions, entreating him to pity the Weakness she had been guilty of, and not ruin her for ever, by revealing what he had discover'd. She told him that SILO, by concealing himself in her Chamber, had at first ravish'd her Virgin Favours, Shame preventing her from alarming the Family; because that, while asleep, he had presumed too far for her to suffer to be made publick; and that since, more
out

out of fear of being betray'd by his Malice, she had yielded to repeat the guilty Joy, than out of any Pleasure she took in the Caresses of a Wretch so much beneath her; and that the Reflection how cruelly her Virtue had been triumph'd over by him, had been the occasion of that Hatred she express'd to all Mankind in general. And can you not, *said* MARMILLIO, assume Courage enough to throw off such a bold Invader?—What matters it, in what manner he shall speak; who will believe the Words of a discarded Servant?—A Villain so audacious should rather have met the Punishment of his Crime from your offended Hand, than reap'd Reward.—But you have since forgiven, and no doubt love the Wretch.—No, by my hopes of Happiness, *resumed* she; and had I any Friend would rid me of him, should think myself oblig'd past Recompence.—But to whom could I apply for such a Favour, without relating the cause of my Disgust; you are the first Discoverer of this horrid Secret, and if indeed you lov'd me, would not endure a Rival such as he to be possess'd of the Advantages he is. What can I do, *reply'd* MARMILLIO, to a Creature unworthy of my Sword? O! there are a thousand, *said* she, who, for a trifling Reward, would send him from the World. As dissolute as MARMILLIO was, the thoughts

thoughts of Murder shock'd him, especially when propos'd by a Woman, and one who had willingly continued in the nearest Intimacy with the Person she would destroy. There are Countries, Madam, *answer'd he, after a little Pause,* where those *Bravoes* you talk of are easy to be found; but if there are any of that Calling in *Caramania*, I protest to you I know them not.

— However, *continued he, when he had again taken a little time for Consideration,* I will endeavour to give you the Ease you seem to wish, though by means less cruel than you mention'd. I care not by what way, *said she,* you secure my Reputation from his Tongue, and deliver me from the Constraint I am under, in suffering his odious Caresses; and my Heart, my Soul, my All shall be at your devotion. MARMILLIO would fain have receiv'd his Hire before his Work was done, but OLIMPIA would not consent: No, my Lord, *said she, when he importun'd her,* set me free from the detested Obligations I am under, and I can then receive your Embraces with satisfaction. He was able to obtain no more of her, and took his leave to go about the Execution of what he had promised, which he accomplished by these means.

He had an acquaintance with a Captain, who traded to the farther part of the Western

tern Ocean, the Ship was at that time ready to set sail: and OLIMPIA sending SILO on board, under pretence of carrying a Letter to the Captain, which he was to deliver to some Friend she had in that Country for which he was bound; the poor Fellow was immediately clapp'd under Hatches, and, like other Felons, was made a Transport for the Theft he had committed on his Lady's Honour. After which, MARMILLIO received from OLIMPIA as full a Gratification of his Desires, as he had hoped, or she had promised.

While the elder Brother was thus engaged, the younger was not left without his Amusements. ARSINOE had Fondness enough for him to oblige her to an endeavour to attract all his Moments; but in spite of all she could do, his Heart could not disentangle itself from that Snare, which the Charms of ATTALINDA had spread about it. The unknown Lady also, who had writ so obliging a Letter to him, sometimes came in for a part in his divided Sentiments; Love of the one, and Curiosity to discover the other, took up so much of his Thoughts, that it was as much as all the Endearments of ARSINOE could boast, to claim a small share in his Inclinations. He would have given almost any thing he was master of, to have known who the Lady was, whom he had made such an Impression

pression on ; but not all his Penetration could serve him so far, and he was as much to seek as ever, when he received a second Billet from her, which contained these Lines.

To the Accomplish'd CLEOMENES.

‘ **H**OW long will you suffer yourself
 ‘ to be accus’d of Unkindness, or
 ‘ Stupidity ? For to one of these two must
 ‘ be ascrib’d your refusing that Return my
 ‘ Passion hoped.——But perhaps you are
 ‘ not yet insensible on whom your Charms
 ‘ have wrought this Effect, and find nothing
 ‘ in me which can induce you to more
 ‘ than Compassion for the Languishments
 ‘ you have caus’d.——I wish to Heaven
 ‘ I knew the happy Beauty for whom you
 ‘ are ungrateful to all others : if worthy of
 ‘ your Love, I might endure my Fate with less
 ‘ regret ; but if to the faint and prostituted
 ‘ Graces of ARSINOE I owe the Misery of
 ‘ hopeless Tenderness, I must confess that
 ‘ I am not able to support the Shock.——
 ‘ I beg, therefore, that you will gratify me
 ‘ in one Request ; which is, that if that
 ‘ Creature be not the Mistress of your Af-
 ‘ fections, you will come into the Draw-
 ‘ ing-room to-morrow with a white Fea-
 ‘ ther in your Hat, instead of a crimson
 ‘ one, which you have been accusom’d to
 ‘ wear ; but if she be, which, alas ! I too

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‘ much

‘ much fear, make no alteration in your
 ‘ Drefs.——This, if you oblige me in,
 ‘ I will not fail to requite by some Favour
 ‘ or other, which fhall be adequate to the
 ‘ Obligation.— Farewel ! I wifh you were
 ‘ lefs lovely, or I more worthy of attract-
 ‘ ing your kind Wifhes.’

Yours, Tenderly Devoted.

At fight of the Hand, which he perfectly knew again, he hoped this was an Eclairciffement of what he fo much defired to know ; but perceiving that this CYNTHIA ftill concealed herfelf behind a Cloud, he was more uneasy and discontented than before. He did not fail, however, to oblige her in the Request ſhe had made him, and appear’d the next day drefs’d after the richeft and moft becoming manner he could invent, and a milk-white Feather in his Hat. — There was a great Court that day ; but among all the Ladies who were there, tho’ he look’d in the Faces of them all, with Eyes the moft enquiring that could be, he ſaw nothing in any of them which could give him any light into the Truth. As he was in a deep Cogitation on this Affair, ATTALINDA came to the place where he was ftanding ; and giving him a little rap on the Arm, You ſeem, *ſaid ſhe*, another Man, methinks, to-day, CLEOMENES !
 Pray

Pray to what fair Lady's Eyes do we owe the Alteration of your Colours, and your Humour? These Words proceeding from a Mouth which had so much charm'd him, made him immediately resume his former Vivacity : and looking on her with the most tender Air, The Change of my Colours, Madam, *answer'd he*, is not a Symptom of the Alteration of my Heart, which never was sensible of a true Passion, but for one Object, nor never can descend beneath the glorious Flame with which at first it was inspired. Few Men, *said she*, speak with this warmth of an absent Mistress; and by your declaring yourself in this manner, I cannot but imagine I am of the acquaintance of this happy* Lady.—If so, make no scruple to reveal who she is, I assure you I can be a faithful Confidante. She is indeed of your acquaintance, *reply'd he*, and I am confident will act in every thing according to your Desires:—But before I presume to name her to you, I must engage your Promise to plead my Cause with the utmost Eloquence, and all the Arguments of prevailing Love.—Tell her I love her more than Words can speak—that all my Nights and Days are taken up in Contemplation on her Charms—that I have no Wish but what is her's.—She forms my Dreams, and renders all my waking Moments happy, or curs'd, ac-

cording as she smiles or frowns.—Tell
 her, that for a long Age of Days I thus
 have languish'd ; and tho' I never yet have
 dar'd to reveal my Passion, it has taken too
 deep a root ever to be remov'd, or banish'd
 from my Soul. The Face of ATTALINDA
 was sometimes cover'd with a scarlet Blush,
 at others, with a livid Paleness while he was
 speaking : which he observing, interpreted
 not to his disadvantage, and in spite of all
 he had been told of her Passion for PHI-
 LARCHUS, from that moment conceiv'd a
 hope of being able to supplant him. Well,
said she, with a Countenance in which Joy
and Fear were visibly painted, when I
 know to whom I should address these Dis-
 courses, I will not omit any thing which
 may promise you Success : and, indeed, I
 think a Passion such as you describe, join'd
 with your other Merits, may almost assure
 you of it. These Expressions, and the Air
 with which they were pronounced, was a
 sufficient Encouragement for him to declare
 what he had till now, but with the utmost
 Pain, conceal'd. He presently told her it
 was no other than herself, and demanded
 the performance of her Promise ; on which
 she look'd a little grave : But tho' she drew
 her Features into an Air of the most re-
 servedness she could assume, yet he easily
 saw she was not in the least offended at
 what he had said. This is strange Discourse,
resumed

resumed she, from one who I know professes himself the Lover of ARSINOE. The most modest Virgin, when attack'd with the profanest Impudence, could not appear with greater Confusion, than did CLEOMENES at the Name of ARSINOE; he could not have imagin'd that a Lady who was so severe on the Failings of others, would herself expose her own, nor was there any probability ATTALINDA could have this Information from any other hand: But recovering himself as well as he could, he thought it better to relate the Truth of every thing, which he did exactly, tho' in a fashion as favourable as he could for ARSINOE. There is not one tittle of this Adventure, *said she, laughing, as soon as he had done speaking*, but what I have heard; with this addition to it, that you had with a great deal of Wit and Ill-nature ridicul'd my want of Beauty, and spoke things so greatly to my disadvantage, that I must confess I had not so ill an opinion of myself, as to believe——I pretend not to Beauty, yet know I am not ugly:——My Humour is not the most entertaining in the world, neither is it disagreeable; nor am I quite a Fool, or have a stinking Breath, or a thousand other Imperfections, which I am told you branded me with.

CLEOMENES had scarce Patience to hear her talk in this manner, without interrup-

ting; but finding she seem'd not to give credit to so cruel an Aspersion, he was the more easily satisfy'd: but when he perceiv'd she had done, he entreated her to let him know by whom he had been so barbarously wrong'd. A very little persuasion serv'd to prevail on her, to tell him it was from ARSINOE she had heard the Character he had given of her; which enraged him to that violent degree, that he made no scruple of letting her know that Lady had turn'd her own Words upon him.

All this Discourse happening in the Presence-Chamber, they had no opportunity to give each other those Testimonies of their mutual Approbation, which both with equal Adour long'd for; but ATTALINDA giving him permission to visit her in the Evening, she order'd things so against his coming, that he found no Obstacles to impede his Wishes.

In fine, he obtain'd of her the Joy he so long had languish'd for; and in the Transports of their mutual Endearments, she confess'd that it was from her he had received those two Letters, which had given him so much disquiet, while ignorant of the Author. I always liked, *said she*, and had an Affection for your Person; but when you came to visit me with MAZARES, was more charmed with your Wit and Behaviour. When you were gone, ARSINOE made me
the

the Confidante of what had pass'd between you, and the Baseness of MAZARES in having betray'd her to you.—— I was not without some Envy, when I heard her speak with how much Rapture you return'd the Condescensions made you, but could not believe she had Charms capable of securing your Heart for ever: And when she told me that you had pass'd some Censures on me, which I was conscious I did not merit, I was so far from giving credit to what she said, that I imagin'd you had mention'd me but with too much regard for her Repose; and to prevent me from having the same Sentiments, had invented that heap of Absurdities.—— In order, therefore, to be upon the square with her, I writ to you. The Success has answer'd my utmost Wishes, and if you can resolve to be constant, think myself the most fortunate of my Sex, in having engaged you.

'Tis not to be suppos'd that there was any Deficiency of Oaths or Vows, to make her secure of his eternal Faith; and she was Woman, easily deluded Woman, and gave credit to all the Asseverations he made. Being now possess'd of all the Intimacies he wish'd, he took the liberty of complaining that he had still a fear, that her Heart was not so wholly his, as the Ardency of his Affection made him desire; and then related, tho' not in terms which she could

be offended at, what he had been told concerning PHILARCHUS. ATTALINDA was perfectly free from all Hypocrisy, and frankly confess'd that she once had been possess'd of the most tender Sentiments, in favour of that young Gentleman ; but that his Ingratitude had entirely erased them, she having discovered, that, in spite of a thousand Obligations he had to her, he made the most solemn Protestations of Affection to a mean Creature, inferiour to her in every Circumstance.

CLEOMENES lov'd her not the less for the Freedom with which she acknowledg'd the Folly of her former Fondness ; and thinking himself perfectly happy in that she now testified for him, nothing could be more felicitous, than the Moments they pass'd together. The Good-nature and Indolence of the Husband gave them frequent opportunities of seeing each other, in as private a manner as either of them could wish : ATTALINDA desir'd no other Proof of his Affection, than that he would entirely quit the Society of ARSINOE, which he accordingly did : Nor found he much Reluctance in his compliance with that Request. All naturally despise what comes with too much ease ; and that very Consideration should have made ATTALINDA, had she not been of a Disposition too gay to be capable of any solid Reflection, trem-
ble

ble at her own Fate, and remember that nothing can be more true, than those Words of the Poet, which thus reminds that easy Sex to be cautious in what manner they bestow their Favours :

*All naturally fly what does pursue ;
'Tis fit Men should be coy, when Women
woo.*

The End of the Fifth Part.



PART



PART VI. and Last.



IT was not the Charms of OLIMPIA, or any other Woman, could make MARMILLIO neglectful of what he owed his Prince; he saw him torn with the severest Anguish, for the expected departure of his dear Mistress; he found also in that Lady a Despair which nothing could surmount, and kept his Brain on a continual rack, for some Stratagem to prevent the Misfortune which both equally dreaded.——But all his Invention now was at a loss; the Princess, whose Commands alone had the power to awe ADRASTUS into silence, had given him her Promise, that ISMONDA should go with him: and tho' that subtle Woman omitted nothing which she thought might prevail on her, to retract what she had said, yet HYANTHE continued firm in her Resolution; and the excessive Uneasiness which the other express'd at the thoughts of returning to
her

her native Country, to her Kindred, and with a Husband, who had ever been most tender of her, at length made every body imagine there was something more in this Reluctance, than she made show of, and occasion'd a stricter Scrutiny into her Behaviour than usual. The Prince for that reason was now oblig'd to refrain from seeing her, unless in publick ; and whenever they had any thing to communicate to each other, MARMILLIO was the Person who convey'd the Letters and Messages. Nothing, however, being concluded on to stop the impending Evil, and the time prefix'd for the departure of ADRASTUS arriv'd, there remain'd no other Expedient, than that ISMONDA should openly refuse accompanying him, under the pretence, that having jealous Notions in his Head, she apprehended some ill-usage from him. This was an excuse which pass'd current but with a very few, because *Anatolia* being the place of her Nativity, and where she had many great and powerful Relations, to whom she might apply in case of his Unkindness, her Causes of Fear appear'd to have no real Foundation. And nothing was now more publickly talk'd of, than that it was more her Aversion for ADRASTUS, than Love for HYANTHE, which would not suffer her to leave the Court of *Caramania*. The Eyes of that Princess also being
now

now partly open, as to the Artifices of that fair Hypocrite, she talk'd to her in a manner, which convinced her she no longer thought herself obliged by her stay. How great a Vexation this was to a Woman, who priz'd her Reputation above all things, excepting her Passion, any one may judge. She gave herself up to the most terrible Reflections, she wept incessantly when in private, and could not so far restrain herself in publick, but that it was easy for any one who saw her, to perceive the trouble she was in. Nor did THEODORE think himself less unhappy, or had more the power of concealing his Chagrin; and their mutual Discontent was so apparent, that scarce any Person about Court, but *thought* as much as ARIDANOR *knew* of the Misfortune of ADRASTUS.

MARMILLIO, who was perfectly acquainted with what was said, endeavour'd to stifle such Conjectures, but in vain; every one whisper'd it about, and the Blindness of the Princess, and the Ingratitude of her Woman, became at once the Theme of both Pity and Detestation. ISMONDA, however, having long since abandon'd Virtue, was now preparing herself to oppose Shame; and since Love and Glory in her Circumstances were grown things incompatible, to preserve the one, chose to renounce the other; and at last brought her assurance to
so

so high a pitch, as to tell the Princess, that if she discharg'd her from her Service, it was a Misfortune, which to bear she must study Patience, but nothing but being banish'd from *Caramania* should oblige her to quit it:—Nor even then, would it be to *Anatolia* she would repair. Your Highness, *said she resolutely*, has power to drive me from a place where you are Sovereign, but not to confine me to the House of a Husband, whose ill Treatment has render'd odious to me all places where he is, and from whose mistaken Jealousy I have reason to apprehend the most terrible Consequences. The Prince, in whose presence she utter'd this, imagin'd he might now add something in her favour, without seeming to do so out of any other Motive, than pity for her Misfortunes, and that Complaisance which might be expected from him to a Woman of her Quality. The Secrets of Marriage, Madam, *said he to the Princess*, are only known to Persons united in those Bonds, nor are any others a fit Judge of the Causes of domestick Differences. Pardon me, therefore, if I think 'twould be an Act of Cruelty to abandon a Lady in her Extremity, who depends alone on you for Protection, and what I am certain your Goodness will hereafter regret, when you shall hear, as probably you may, that this *ADRASTUS*, whom you think so just,

just, shall make no other use of your discharging from your Service his Wife, than to revenge himself on her for an imagin'd Wrong.—— Jealousy is a Passion the most terrible, and least capable of forgiving of any, for which the Soul finds room; and I entreat, in favour of this afflicted Beauty, that you will not send her from you, at a time when her only Asylum is here. Consider, Madam! *continued he, more strenuously*, she had not quitted *Anatolia*, but for the dutiful Regard and Love she bore HYANTHE; nor had ADRASTUS Notions to her prejudice, but for the long absence which those Motives occasion'd: Shall you then, you, for whose sake she has incurred his Displeasure, abandon her to the Effects of it?—— O! let it never be said a Sovereign has so ill requited the Faith and Zeal of a Subject.

'Tis certain, that at the beginning of this Discourse he design'd not to pursue it so far; but having once open'd his Mouth, to plead a Cause in which he was so deeply interested, he could not so far be master of himself, as to conclude just when it was consistent with Prudence. The Princess look'd on him with a fix'd regard all the time he was speaking; and as she wanted not Penetration, tho' for a long time deceived by her own Virtue into a Belief of others, now saw what she, of all the world, was

was last convinc'd of. But as she was Mistress of great Wisdom, Conduct, and Presence of Mind, she in a moment recollected what would best become her to do; and after taking a very little time for consideration, answer'd him in this manner: Never shall it be said, that a Wife, who boasts to know the Duty of that State, presumed to contradict her Husband's Will. ISMONDA, Sir, shall still continue in *Caramania*; but remember, that the only Incitement to my Grant, is my Obedience.

Her Heart was now too full to utter more, and retired that moment with precipitation into her Closet; where she shut herself up, and gave a loose to the over-boiling Passions of her troubled Soul. She now found that the hopes she had long flatter'd herself with, of being Mistress of the Affections of THEODORE, were but in vain; and that while she imagin'd she had the most faithful Friend in ISMONDA, she had been cherishing a Viper to sting her in the most tender Part. It was with an infinity of Tenderness she regarded her Husband, and was as sensible as Woman could be, of the wrong he had done her Love and Virtue; yet did she entertain no thoughts of revenging it in the manner some Wives would do, nor vented her Discontent in Revilings, and Exclamations, as it is ordinary for Women to do on those occasions.

To

To Heaven alone did she complain, and from the divine Powers entreated either a Mitigation of her Misfortunes, or Patience to endure them.—— And indeed it must be confess'd, that never Wife was an Example of greater Resignation, Fortitude, and Moderation. She consider'd, that to fly into Passion, would but render her Condition worse, by exposing to the World her Husband's Weakness, and her want of that Power she ought to have over him; that Pity was but a poor Relief for a Misfortune such as her's, yet that was all she could expect by revealing it; and that to accuse the Prince with any terms of Wrath, would but provoke him to avow his Crime to her face, and by that means lay her under the necessity either of coming to an open Rupture with him, or, by brooking such a Contempt tamely, testify a meanness of Spirit, which was not in her nature. She chose therefore not to seem to know what, acknowledging to know, she must resent, but had not the power of redressing.

Would all Wives take this method, there would not so many of them become hateful to their Husbands, and despicable in the eyes of their Acquaintance, who, for the most part, more *scorn* than *pity* their want of Charms. Never was any Heart less capable of Hypocrisy, than that of HYANTHE; and tho' her Prudence made her resolve,

solve, neither by her Words or Actions, to give the Prince room to imagine she had the least jealous Thought, yet could she not at all times so well disguise the Truth, but that he discover'd it: and if this Conduct did not make him love, it caused in him the extremest Veneration and Esteem for her. And she finding him increase in the Respect he paid her, more easily endured his want of Love, hoping that also would ensue; and that when satiated with the Possession of unlicens'd Charms, he might at last return to those which had a just Claim to his Regard, and by his future Tenderneſs repay the too long neglected Merits of a suffering Wife. But in what terms is it possible to describe in any manner, which can give the Reader a just Notion of it, the Distraction of ADRASTUS, when he found himself by this means disappointed of revenging the Injury he too well knew was done him by this ungrateful Wife. He made his Complaint to all to whom he spoke, of the Injustice done him, in detaining from him the Woman, whom by all the Laws of Heaven and Earth was his, engaged the whole Body of the reverend *Magi* to urge the Princess in his behalf; but all being unsuccessful, scarce could he refrain from uttering all he knew, and exposing the Guilt of THEODORE, which he imagin'd was yet a Secret to HYANTHE:

yet in spite of the tempestuous Passion which invaded him, and like an Earthquake shook his tormented Soul, so true was his Affection for his Sovereign, that he forbore, painful as the Restraint was to him, uttering the least Syllable, which might occasion a suspicious Thought to the prejudice of his Daughter's Repose. ARIDANOR and CLEARCHUS were the only Persons to whom he discours'd with freedom of his Misfortune: and the former of these was now involv'd in Vexations, which left him little the power of listening to those of other People.

The Intrigue between him and ZELINDA had now lasted a considerable time for Persons of their gay Temper; the Condescensions she had made him, and the Submission she had testify'd on the score of ELARIA, however, making him imagine she felt really for him what might be call'd a true Affection, made him endeavour to be as grateful as possible: and tho' nothing could be a Task more severe than that he impos'd on himself in this behaviour, he exerted all the *Man* about him to dissemble a Tenderness for her, equal to that she had seem'd to have for him: but how easy is it for those who are at all acquainted with the Passion, to distinguish the true Ardours from the counterfeit? She plainly saw that he would find nothing less difficult, than
to

to part from her, if he could find a handsome pretence for it; which Indifference, join'd to the incessant Importunities of a new Adorer, made her become as negligent in her Endearments, as of late she had perceiv'd he was. And one Evening, perceiving he came not at the appointed Hour, she gave admittance to her new Enamorato; and to prevent any Interruption in the Entertainment she was now resolv'd to permit him to give her, writ to ARIDANOR a Billet, containing these Lines.

To the Inconstant ARIDANOR.

‘ **W**HEN I so readily forgave your
 ‘ Intrigue with ELARIA, it was not
 ‘ that I lov’d too little, but too much; ill
 ‘ therefore does your Indifference repay so
 ‘ true a Passion, and worse would it be-
 ‘ come me to receive the Caresses of a Man,
 ‘ who, by the faintness of them, denotes
 ‘ he is no longer influenc’d by Inclination.
 ‘ ——— For Heaven’s sake then throw off
 ‘ this forc’d Complaisance! I have now
 ‘ brought myself to a Disposition to en-
 ‘ dure your absence without complaining;
 ‘ and as I am perfectly acquainted with the
 ‘ Change in your Sentiments, shall make
 ‘ no scruple to declare mine, and assure
 ‘ you that it is my desire we should meet
 ‘ no more as Lovers, and that you should,

‘ but as a Dream, remember what has past
 ‘ between You and

ZELINDA.

Her new Admirer being in the Room while she step’d into her Closet to write this, she was in so much haste to return to him, that she entirely forgot to order the Page, by whom she sent it, to give it into no other Hand than that of ARIDANOR himself; who being at that time from home, the inadvertent Boy deliver’d it to his Gentleman, with whom, however, it had been sufficiently secure, had not BARSINA unluckily cross’d the Hall the moment of its being brought. The sight of the Page, the knowledge of his Lady’s Humour, and the Observation she had made on the frequent Visits which her Lord had for some time made there, gave her a sort of jealous Curiosity to know the Contents of this Letter. The Emissary of ZELINDA was therefore no sooner out of the House, than she commanded the other to give it her, which he endeavouring to evade, increas’d her Suspicion, and her Resolution to become Mistress of it. ARIDANOR, *said she*, has no Secrets to which I am a Stranger, nor will he condemn you for entrusting in my hands any Paper directed for him : but to remove whatever Fears your Duty may suggest on this occasion, I give you my Honour not
 to

to open it—the Seal, till broke by him, shall remain untouch'd, and it is only with a design of a little innocent Raillery, that I desire to be the bearer of it myself. The Gentleman, who knew the perfect Agreement between them, and beside cou'd not imagine that if there were any Affair improper to be communicated to her, ZELINDA would have taken so little Care in the delivering it, made no farther hesitation to obey her. She retir'd immediately with it in her Hand, but being a Woman nicely punctual to her Word, would not venture to break it open, but laying it carefully up in her Cabinet, resolv'd to proceed in such a manner, as should fully inform her of the Contents, without running the hazard of incurring the Displeasure of her Lord, or forfeiting her Promise to his Gentleman. She was however in the utmost uneasiness till ARIDANOR came in; she long'd to be convinc'd of that, which she but too much fear'd, when known, would be far from restoring her to that Tranquillity she was us'd to enjoy: yet so terrible to be borne are perturbations of Suspence, that whoever labours under them, would fly to the most stabbing certainty for change of Torment.

At length he came, and she no sooner saw his Chariot enter the Court-yard, from a Window where she sat on purpose to observe, than she sent to desire he would come

to her instantly : which request being immediately comply'd with, she saluted him in these Terms ; My Lord, *said she*, a Letter directed for you, has fallen, by accident, into my hands ; but as I have been so honourable not to open it, I hope you are too generous not to communicate the Contents of it to me, the manner of its being brought having fill'd me with a Curiosity, which I am the less ashamed to confess, because it is the first time I ever was guilty of it. These Words, and the sight of the Hand, cover'd the whole Face of ARIDANOR with a scarlet Blush ; never, before, had he experienc'd such a Dilemma, he knew not how either to evade, or comply with her entreaty ; and having stood for some moments silent, and in a Posture which heighten'd her Suspicions, at last, Madam, *said he, but not without some hesitation in his Voice*, this Letter, tho directed for me, is intended for another Person ; and I cannot, without the utmost injustice to those who have intrusted me, make even you a partner in the Secret. O Sex most fertile in Invention, and practis'd in Deceit ! *cry'd she, unable to contain the Pangs which Jealousy now shot through every aching Fibre of her Heart*, I expected some such mean Equivocation from a Guilt like thine.——*Man*, however imperious, lordly, and unforgiving when in power, is ever fawning,

fawning, fearful, and poor in Spirit, when detection's near, and stretches out her uncorrupted Hand to draw from off his Crime the Vail which has obscured it. — Ungrateful Lord! *pursued she*, Is it to the Lover of ZELINDA I have preserv'd myself so true a Wife! — Is it thus, that Virtue, Truth, and Tenderness must be repaid! — O could I as easily throw off those Principles in which my Youth was bred, forget, like thee, all sense of Honour and of Shame, how might I make thee tremble at my Revenge? — In spite of thy Indifference, I am still thy Wife, and by that Title, am impower'd, when e'er I please, to load thee with Disgrace, great as the Indignity thou hast offer'd me — But well, alas! thou knowest, I too much fear the Gods, and prize my own unspotted Purity, to retaliate in kind the wrong thou hast done me. — Go on then, sin in security, and laugh at my Reproaches; but think not that high Heaven will always suffer thee to triumph over the sacred Laws, and abuse the Virtue of an enduring Wife.

In this manner did she continue, venting the tempestuous Passions of her Soul, for a considerable time, without his offering one word of Interruption; but at length, that Tenderness which had at first engaged him to marry her, and had never since forsook his Breast, gave way to the natural

vehemence and impatience of his Temper. — He now ceas'd or to deny, or to excuse his Crime ; and telling her, That whatever Faults the heats of Youth might have made him guilty of, it ought not to be a Person who had so well profited by the Folly of his amorous Inclination that should upbraid him with it, flung out of the Chamber, leaving her ; when Rage a little abated, and gave room for cool Reflection, to repent that she so far had urg'd him.

When ARIDANOR had enough recover'd himself from that sudden disorder which his late Rage had involv'd him in, he read the Letter which had been the Cause of it ; he would have thank'd ZELINDA for discharging him from his Attendance, had she done it in any other manner : but the imprudence of her Conduct, in exposing both herself and him, to that very Person, from whom of all the World she should most carefully have conceal'd their Amour, made him now despise and hate, what before he had but a small share of esteem for. He blamed his Wife also for the Terms in which she had express'd her Resentment, much more than for the Resentment itself ; but as he truly lov'd her, he easily absolv'd her this little Fault, which he was sensible was more occasion'd by the extreme Tenderness she had for him, than by any thing of that *womanish Pride*, which, as frequently as *Love*, renders

ders a Wife tenacious of her Prerogative, and jealous of her Right. He would not, however, seem to forgive what she had said, resolving to make his own use of the opportunity she had given him, to execute a Design which he had for some time been forming, but could not till now bring to perfection.

ALMIRA began to shew the Misfortune which her inadvertent Passion had drawn on her, in too visible a manner for him not to fear it would soon become so to the whole World; and having of late no opportunity of speaking to IDOMEUS concerning the Affair, that young Lord absenting himself from his House, and keeping for the most part out of town, he had for a long time been prodigiously uneasy, that she did not make some pretence to remove; which perceiving she made not the least Effort to do, he thought he had now a fit Excuse, on his Quarrel with her Sister, to desire she would quit his House. He therefore resolv'd to keep up his Resentment; and tho' BARSINA, sensible of the wrong step she had taken, entreated to be admitted, he shut himself up, refus'd to see her, and sent her word, that if she desir'd to expiate the Fault she had been guilty of, her best way would be not to remind him of it, by coming into his presence, till he should let her know he had forgiven it.

But

But not being able long to counterfeit this cruel Humour to a Woman he so sincerely lov'd as BARSINA, as well as because he thought it full time ALMIRA should be gone, he order'd his Page to carry a Letter to her Chamber, which contained these Lines.

To ALMIRA.

‘ **Y**OU are not ignorant that no other
 ‘ Motive, than the most pure Affec-
 ‘ tion to BARSINA, made me become her
 ‘ Husband, nor that the Love I bore her
 ‘ made every thing which was dear to her
 ‘ esteem’d by me. As a Sister, you have
 ‘ been treated by me with a Brother’s Ten-
 ‘ derness ; but as the Circumstances in which
 ‘ we once stood have changed their face,
 ‘ accuse it not as a Levity in me, that I
 ‘ desire you to remove to some place where
 ‘ you may reside with more ease, than you
 ‘ can at present in the Family of the

Discontented

ARIDANOR.

P. S. ‘ The sooner you provide yourself,
 ‘ the better, because here may happen Rup-
 ‘ tures will no way please you to be wit-
 ‘ ness of. Farewel ; every thing is not what
 ‘ it seems, nor I so much unkind as this
 ‘ Epistle may make me appear in your Ima-
 ‘ gination.’ Let

Let any one put themselves, if Imagination can so far transport them, one moment into the Condition of the unhappy ALMIRA; and they may then, but no otherwise, be able to conceive what 'twas she endur'd. She doubted not but the Secret of her Misfortune was divulg'd, and suppos'd that only that was the occasion of those Ruptures mention'd in the Postscript. ARIDANOR had indeed contriv'd it with so much Art, that she might believe it to be so, yet no other Person to whom she might happen to show it, have suspicion of the Truth.——What could she now do? To whom could she have recourse for Advice? IDOMEUS she had not seen for some days, and she guess'd the reason of his absence, was on account of what had pass'd between them being discover'd. Her Sister was in so great a disorder, that she desir'd none might come into her Chamber, and this afflicted Beauty now look'd on that also as proceeding from the same Cause: Believing herself therefore the occasion of the whole Disturbance which had happen'd in the Family, she resolv'd to go out of it immediately; and as none of those to whom she imagin'd her Shame was known demanded to see her, had little Inclination to desire it. Distracted therefore with the various Idea's that ran that moment thro' her

her whirling Brain, she bid her Woman pack up her Clothes, and every thing belonging to her, in order to leave a House which had been so fatal to her.——Let us make haste, *said she to her*, to be gone from this detested place, this Scene of Ruin, Perjury, and Deceit, and where even Nature fails to take the part of one, who ought to be most dear by Blood and Interest; even BARSINA, that once dear Sister, that engaging Friend, here forsakes ALMIRA, and drives her out to Misery and Shame, and all the Woes that attend helpless and betray'd Innocence.——Gods! *continued she*, is the Fault I have committed of that unpardonable nature, that none will vouchsafe a hand to help me!——If I have thrown a Stain on my Family, and thereby forfeited my Pretensions to the Favour I might expect from a Sister so severely virtuous, must ARIDANOR too abandon me? Must he expose and thrust me out to the wide pitiless World?——He, whom had I never seen, I had been happy, IDOMEUS had been then a stranger to my Eyes, nor had I stood in need of Friendship, or Assistance! ——O Monster! Villain! perfidious, ungrateful IDOMEUS! *added she, after a little Pause*, to what unfathomable Depth of Wretchedness hast thou reduced me!——She utter'd these Words with too much Vehemence for them not to be observ'd, by her Woman

man and another Servant, who were then waiting in the Room. It was not, however, their business to take notice they observ'd any thing farther than what she had commanded; and 'tis possible, tho' not exceeding probable, according to the Disposition of the greatest part of those of their Profession, that their Lady's Secret might have been safe in their possession, had nothing else happen'd to betray it: But alas! the Disorders of this poor Lady's Mind wrought so far on her Body, that the Effect was presently discern'd in more than Words——each Limb began to tremble with convulsive Strugglings, and every Nerve confess'd an Agony before unknown. In fine, she fell into that Condition, which those who are most experienced in it dread, but which in its first tryal is scarce to be supported.——No longer now had she the power of retaining Sense either of Shame or Fear; Resentment too was banish'd from her Breast, and all the Wish was left her, was to be eas'd by any Means, or Person. Her Woman presently conceiving what her Condition was, and fearing the Agonies she saw her in, if not immediately reliev'd, would be her death, ran to acquaint BARSINA with the News. At first she was deny'd admittance by the Lady's Page, who waited in an outer Room; but her crying out that ALMIRA was dying, and the Shrieks
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of that unhappy Creature by this time reaching the Ears of the whole Family, her Sister open'd the Door, to know the meaning of so confused a Noise; which being whisper'd to her by the Attendant of ALMIRA, she accompany'd her, almost wild with Astonishment and Grief, to her Chamber, where she indeed found her in a Condition such as could leave no room to imagine it any other than really it was. Utterly impossible is it to express the mingled Rage and Concern, which at this Object invaded the whole Soul of the virtuous BARSINA: yet in this juncture, testifying a more than ordinary Presence of Mind, and prizing the Reputation of her Sister above even her Life, she order'd a Hackney-Chair to be brought immediately to the Door, and forced her into it, giving the Charge herself to the Men to what place they should carry her, which was to the House of a Midwife, whom she knew she could oblige to keep the Secret. She had no sooner dispatch'd her from view, than she sent her Woman after her with such things as were proper for the Condition she was in, but continued in the most terrible Agonies for so unexpected and so shameful an Accident.

In the mean time, the Author of this Misfortune, inconstant IDOMEUS, was engaged in Adventures, which made him wholly negligent of what might befall this wretched

wretched Victim of his wavering Desires. By accident, he had one day stray'd into the Temple of the Sun, a place he was used but little to frequent ; but as if the God had determin'd to take vengeance on him, for the little regard he paid to his Altars, he no sooner approach'd the sacred Shrine, than he was struck with a sudden Fire, more fierce than even his Rays, unaided by the Charms of Beauty, had the power of kindling. The sparkling Eyes of LUTHELINA, a young Virgin of noble Blood, being placed opposite to the spot on which he stood, shot into the very Soul of the amorous Youth such Flames, as were not to be extinguish'd but by Enjoyment : Strong as swift he felt their mighty Force ; but that not being a place in which he could accost her in the manner he wish'd to do, the sacred Ceremony over, he order'd his Page to follow and observe into what House she went, and not to return without a full Information of her Name, and the Circumstances of her present Condition. IDOMEUS was of a Disposition arbitrary over those on whom he had power, resolute in having his Commands fulfill'd, and sufficiently generous in rewarding Services, to engage the utmost from his Dependants. The Person whom he employ'd on this Errand, had too much to fear from his Indignation, and also to hope from his Liberality,

berality, not to make him diligent in his Enquiries ; and he so well succeeded in them, as to bring him an account that this young Beauty was the Daughter of a *Dalmatian* Lord, who, having wasted the best part of his Fortune in an unsuccessful Quarrel, had left her, with two other Sisters, wholly on the dependance of an Aunt, who was happily married to one of the most wealthy Commoners in *Caramania* ; by whom having no Children, and now of an Age too much advanced to hope for any, the three Orphans had been educated as her own : and that the two elder being married with her Consent, had received from her Bounty Portions equal to what might have been expected with them, had they been really her own. But this blooming Charmer attracting the universal Admiration of the Men, the old Lady kept in a very close Restraint, never permitting her to go abroad without her, or receive any Visits but such as she was pleased to think proper. This Account was but little pleasing to IDOMEUS ; he had not only the Virtue and Virgin-Fearfulness of the young one to combat with, but also the watchful Diligence of the old one to deceive : he was resolv'd, however, not to give way to Despair, without having first made a tryal of the Difficulties which he must surmount to become Master of his Wishes. Having no acquaintance

tance with any of the Family, nor with any who could introduce him, he made it his business to find out what publick Places the Uncle most frequented; which having learn'd, he never fail'd meeting him, and by degrees brought himself so much into his good Opinion, that he invited him to his House. This was all at present our young Adventurer requir'd; and being one day press'd by him in a very friendly manner to go home with him from the Tennis-Court, where they had been at play, he joyfully accepted the Offer; and the more gladly, because it being before Dinner, he was certain of seeing the Ladies.

Thus far every thing succeeded according to his wish; but never was Man so confused as he, when, the Table being serv'd, the Aunt and Niece appear'd; the fulsome Compliments he receiv'd from the one, and the Beauties of the other rendring him incapable of judging in what manner he should behave. He no sooner began to say a gallant thing to the one, than the other would interrupt him, by telling him how like her Niece was to her, and twenty times over assuring him, that tho' she was her Aunt, she was very little older; that her Brother was a Man when she was no more than a Child, and that LUTHELINA and she, by those who knew them not, were taken for Sisters. Had it been at any

other time, the Vanity of this Beldame would have been a sufficient matter of Diversion to him ; but the Impertinence of her Chat now hindring him from declaring his Sentiments to the young Lady, made him almost distracted ; and scarce cou'd he refrain from letting her see by his Answers, that it was of little consequence to him of what Age she was : but with the Praises she was incessantly giving herself, she mingled so many of him, that it was not in his power to be rude, and at last put a thought into his Head which he resolv'd to cherish as a fortunate one.

He judg'd, with Reason, that when a Woman takes an over-care to appear amiable in the eyes of Mankind, it is not without an ambition of being told she is so ; and that such a Person might, with ease, be brought to believe any thing by him she imagines is her Lover. To counterfeit that Character, he presently perceiv'd was the only means to engage one of hers to his Interest ; and tho he could not, as yet, form any direct Rules in what manner he should proceed hereafter, he fancy'd it would be the best beginning he could make ; not doubting, but when he was once become free enough in the Family, to have an opportunity of talking to the young Lady, he should easily convince her, it was not the antiquated Beauties of her Aunt, which render'd him so assiduous.

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In fine, he turn'd the whole Frame of his Behaviour and Discourse in such a manner, that she who had not for a long Series of Years known what it had been to have such fine things said to her, was perfectly transported, and believing him really enamour'd with her, had not the least jealous thought that he was so elsewhere, as otherwise the natural Envy of her Disposition would have made her presently observe; and was so far from denying him admittance to her House, as she had done many who had profess'd themselves the Lovers of LUTHELINA, that she intreated him to come as frequently as he could, assur'd him her Gates should be always open to receive him; and not only by her Words, but also by her Eyes, if Glances of a Woman turn'd of Fifty may be allow'd to be intelligible to a young Man of twenty five, made it her endeavour to convince him a more welcome Guest cou'd not arrive.

Pursuant to the first step he had taken, he manag'd the Affair so well in the succeeding Visits he made her, that in a very small time she became enamour'd of him to the utmost pitch of Dotage; which is all the Term one can afford to a Woman, who, at her Age, confesses a Passion that even Youth is put to the Blush to acknowledge. But being belov'd by her, was the least of what he aim'd at, and as his Design was

through the Aunt to make his way to the Niece, he took the opportunity her mistaken Fondness gave him ; and, counterfeiting too well for one who so much contributed to her own Deception to see into the Cheat, persuaded her to pretend a Journey to a Relation in the Country, and abscond for a small time with him. It is not to be believ'd with how much greediness she swallow'd the Bait he had prepar'd for her, and telling her Husband that she had receiv'd Letters that a Cousin of hers was extremely ill, would needs go immediately away ; and that, not only because she was in haste to be gone to one, who she said was so dear a Friend, but also pretending a Frugality, which she knew was not displeasing to him whom she endeavour'd to deceive, that she would save the Charges of travelling with an Equipage, and go privately in the Stage-Coach. Every thing favouring her Designs, she, like the Moon, was lost in Clouds, to have the better Opportunity of indulging her expected Raptures with the lov'd EN-DIMION, invisible by mortal Eyes. IDOMEUS contriv'd the place to which she went, should be so near the Town, that he could with ease go thither every day, and return at night, which he was always punctual in doing, to take off all suspicion that he had any other design in visiting the great City, than to prevent the scandalous Observers of the

the Intimacy between them, from imagining they were gone together.

Now was the beauteous LUTHELINA left a defenceless Prey to the subtle Invader: the watchfulness of her Aunt had, hitherto, taken away all occasion for her setting that guard over herself, which all Women are instructed in, and which, when ever they stray, most certain Ruin overtakes their Steps; and she was as incapable of resisting the Impulses which Love and Nature create in a youthful Breast, as she would have been to have subdu'd an Army by any other Weapons than her Eyes. IDOMEUS needed no more than to declare his Passion to inspire an equal share in her; the little she had been suffer'd to hear of Discourses of this kind, made her now listen to what he said with double Pleasure; and by reading of Romances, having been taught, that to be ador'd was the Prerogative of her Sex, had too often look'd on it as a hardship to be deny'd that Triumph, not to consider the Liberty she now enjoy'd, as the greatest Blessing could have befallen her. This was indeed a Disposition which might have been fatal instead of advantageous to his Designs, because the same Motives which induced her Vanity to give ear to him with pleasure, would certainly have inclin'd her to receive the same Declarations from others also; but to prevent this Evil, he took care never to

be absent from her but in those hours which call'd him to her Aunt, and in which she could not, with decency, admit the Visits of Persons of a different Sex.

What is it that continu'd Importunities, when mix'd with Inclination, and favour'd by Time and Place, bring to pass! The Vanity of this young Charmer first inclin'd her to receive his Addresses; his Accomplishments and agreeable Person, brought her afterwards to be as well pleas'd with the *Lover* as the *Love*; and the Softness of her Sex at last, to think nothing too much to reward an Affection, which she imagin'd no less *sincere* than it appear'd to be *violent*. In a word, as he wanted not Courage to ask every thing of her, so there was nothing he desired, that he did not obtain. This indeed must be said of him, that in some measure he deserv'd her, since never QUIXOTE of Romance did more to obtain the DULCINEA of his Hopes, than he, in constraining himself to counterfeit Ardors for a Woman, whose Experience render'd it very difficult to impose on her, and who would not have fail'd to have remark'd the least deficiency in Behaviour: but this was a Merit of which he durst not boast, but which also brought with it its own Conveniencies, to make amends for the present Toil; because whenever he grew tired with the Possessions of the Charms of his young Mistress,

strefs, he had no more to do, than by growing cold to the old one, occasion her return to Town, and by that means be releas'd from his Obligations to that undone Beauty, without incurring the Reputation of Ingratitude or Falshood. He was too well acquainted with the Inconstancy of his own Humour, not to know that this would infallibly happen some day or other; and felt an infinite deal of Pleasure in his own Mind, at thinking how well he was provided of an Expedient to rid himself, whenever he pleas'd, of Embraces in which he no longer cou'd find a Joy.

But this fell not out immediately; it was in the very height of his Amour with LUTHELINA, that that unfortunate Accident happened to ALMIRA; and his time being wholly shar'd between the amorous Aunt, and lovely Niece, he had not appear'd in the Palace of ARIDANOR for many days. His absence adding to the Distraction which her present Condition involv'd her in, made her fall into Ravings, which soon discover'd, to all about her, who it was that was the Author of her Shame. The News was soon communicated to BARSINA; and that Lady thinking what she had to say, a sufficient Plea for breaking through the Injunction her Lord had lately laid on her, told ARIDANOR; who, she suspected not, had before any knowledge of the Affair. IDOMEUS

being unmarried, she propos'd that he should repair the Injury he had done her Sister, by marrying her with all convenient speed: nor could less be expected from a Lady of so much Virtue, and who had all the Affection for the unfortunate ALMIRA, that could possibly be paid by one so near by Blood. But ARIDANOR, who knew the Disposition of his Brother, and also that his Circumstances could not well admit of such a Match, endeavour'd to silence her by these Words; It is not, Madam, *said he*, in the power of a younger Brother to marry according to his Inclinations, and I, by following mine, have render'd him yet less able to do so, than had I enrich'd my Family by bringing a Lady into it more eminent for her Wealth, than for those more worthy Qualifications I found in you. And is this all the Reparation, *resum'd she*, that you think is owing to the poor ALMIRA for her Loss of Honour, and the Disgrace which it has brought on all ally'd to her? The Title of my Wife defends you from that fear, *reply'd he*; and tho I truly pity your unhappy Sister, and equally with yourself condemn the Action IDOMEUS has been guilty of, yet will I never advise him to atone for it by the way you mention—— I beg therefore, *continued he*, that for the sake of mine and your own Peace, you will cease to urge a Suit which it is the fix'd deter-

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termination of my Soul for ever to refuse. BARSINA, whose only fault was having a Spirit a little too great, could not contain herself at these Words, and forgetting how dear her late Rashness had cost her, relaps'd into a worse and more dangerous Excess of it; and if ARIDANOR wanted a Stock of Patience sufficient to endure her Reproaches, even when they were occasion'd by a Fault of which he knew himself guilty, how little could he support them for a Crime transacted by another, and in which he had no hand? In fine, Passion on both sides grew too high at last to be confin'd within the bounds of even good manners, and that decorum, which ought always to be preserv'd among People of Condition, and which, indeed, more than by their Titles, distinguishes them from those of a mean Education: which ARIDANOR perceiving, and fearing he might be transported to something unbecoming his Character, was enough Master of himself to quit the Room. But BARSINA thinking she had now a more justifiable reason for Resentment than before, and besides that rage of Temper she was possess'd of, being continually kept warm by the daily Complains of her Sister, and the Whispers she heard concerning her, as her Misfortune grew more reveal'd, could not entertain the least thought of submitting, and resolv'd in her own Mind,

Mind, as much as a Woman who truly loves can do, never to be reconcil'd to her Husband without he consented to use his utmost endeavours for the Nuptials of IDOMEUS and ALMIRA.

In this distracted Position were the Family and Mind of ARIDANOR, when A-DRASTUS sought relief and mitigation of his Sorrows in his Advice and Society : how little he was able to afford it to another, the Reader will easily judge by the knowledge how much he stood in need of it himself.—
 CLEARCHUS was the only Person who knew the Truth of this noble *Anatolian's* Misfortune, and was capable of talking freely to him concerning it ; all means, therefore, as has been before observ'd, having been try'd and found ineffectual for the removal of ISMONDA, it was his Counsel, that his Friend should no more add to the Torments he endur'd, by prosecuting an Endeavour which he had so often experienc'd was but fruitless : and the Persuasions of this known faithful Man, together with the apprehensions of offending the King by too long an absence, at last prevail'd on him to leave *Caramania* ; but with what Grief of Soul, none but a Husband who loves, and has like him been injur'd, can conceive. But whatever were his Anxieties, they could not surpass the Transport which his departure afforded his transgressing
 Wife,

Wife, and her enamour'd Prince. The one, now become past the care of Reputation, and the other believing himself safe from all Reproach, gave a loose to Rapture greater than ever they had durst to indulge before, and for a time, one would indeed have believ'd the Poet's Divinity had been in such a Love as theirs, so much beyond the ordinary Extasies of that Passion, were the Portion of their every meeting; but as nothing but a real Godhead can be immutable, the Fiend at last disclos'd itself, and sadly transferr'd this Scene of heavenly Delights, to one all black and horrid.

There is nothing more certain in the Affairs of Love, than that Security is the Parent of Satiety; and if we in the least consult either Philosophy or Nature, 'tis easy to be accounted for. What a Man fears to lose, he is for ever endeavouring to preserve; but when Doubt is no more, and you have no farther to do than to go on in one continu'd round, the most pleasing Circle, in time, grows dull, and the once ardent Lover slackens in his Race; the Spirits cool, and Desire begins to nod, when free from all Interruptions in the way, and unalarm'd by any pursuing Fears. Besides, of the most luscious Fruits we soonest surfeit: what is given us but sparingly, would never fail to excite our keenest Appetite; but when allow'd at large, and the rapacious
Will

Will is left without a Check, with too much greediness we devour, and the rich Sweets with too much Plenty cloy. To all this may be added, that ISMONDA buoying up Ambition with fancy'd Merit, and the Plea of having now abandon'd every thing for Love, was lost to all but the return of that dear ruinous Passion; imprudently exacted from the Prince as a Right, that which is never with pleasure granted when expected.——Love should be free, and unconfin'd as Air; the least restraint destroys the Bliss, changes its very Nature, and perverts that to forced Complaisance, which was before all Extasy and Joy.

Little did MARMILILO imagine, when he brought VIOLETTA for the better continuance of indulging his Passion for CARICLEA, that the Beauties of that Virgin would occasion him the Troubles he was now involv'd in. ADRASTUS had scarcely forsaken the *Caramanian* Confines, before the Prince became as much estrang'd in his Affections to the fair Wife of that unhappy Nobleman, as he had caused her to be to him; the untasted Sweets of VIOLETTA's innocent Beauties kindled in his Heart a Fire, which nothing but their Possession could extinguish. He knew MARMILLIO was the Person who introduced her to the Service of HYANTHE, and that she de-

depended on his Advice and Care, as she would do on that of a Parent.

It was therefore chiefly in his power to seduce her, and to persuade her, that Virtue would be of little advantage to her in a Place where the contrary was so much in fashion. He had conferr'd too many Obligations on this Favourite; and, indeed, knew him too zealously devoted to his Service, to suppose he would make a scruple of any thing which might afford him satisfaction; he therefore communicated his Thoughts to him on this occasion with the utmost freedom, and talk'd to him in a manner, as if he doubted not to be in an almost immediate possession of his Wishes by his means: but he had not intirely finish'd all he had to say, before he perceiv'd MARMILLIO to change Colour, and by many Symptoms denote, that he was either unwilling, or unable to execute this Commission; which obliging him to change the form of his Discourse, What, *said he to him*, is the Happiness of a Prince, who desires nothing more than to make thee happy, of so little account with thee, that thou canst hesitate at woking to my Will a silly Girl, who would doubtless rejoice to find herself so considerable to her Sovereign. Ah, sacred Sir! *replied MARMILLIO*, the Gods of *Caramania* can witness for me, how much I bless their Bounty, when-

whenever they afford me an occasion of testifying the Regard I pay your Highness: Had VIOLETTA any thing in her of the Disposition of her Sex, I might indulge my Wishes with the hope of serving you; but she is colder than the frozen *North*, not to be warm'd by all the Artifices of melting Love; and less ambitious than the poor Cottage-maid, who never heard of Grandeur, or had a Wish beyond her Milk-ing-pail.—— How often have I seen her fly, obscure her Charms in Solitude, or run for Protection behind the Princess's Chair, to shield herself from hearing the Courtier's Address? —— How regardless does she view the admiring Crowd? How little does she adorn her Beauties? How negligent is she in pleasing? —— Is not this, *continued he*, my Lord! a Behaviour which may make me justly fear all that I can urge will be of no effect? —— I have remarked, *resumed the Prince*, the artless Innocence which appears in all her Actions; and did I not believe there were a difficulty in gaining her, would think the Employment unworthy of thy Skill. —— Were she to be won by rich Presents, and Promises of future Greatness, my Page might, in my name, convey them to her, and bargain for her Heart.—Or did the Court-Amusements please her, in publick Balls, and private Pressures of her Hand, I might have hope

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to catch her Senses: but so perfect a Modesty can only by Time and Argument be won; and that alas! the ARGUS Eyes, which daily are upon me, deny me to make tryal of.—But thou, MARMILLIO, art admitted even in her retir'd Moments, and under the sanction of a Guardian's Name may'st steal upon her Thoughts, and, e'er she is aware, inspire her with Desires in favour of my Passion; with amorous Chat melt down her Soul, and warm into yielding.— Then, when thou findest her moulded to the purpose, stamp the Impression of thy Prince's Image—— Say how I languish, burn, despair, and die; say any thing, to prove it Murder, Treason, Parricide, to deny my Suit.

The Prince utter'd these Words with too much Vehemence for the other not to know all opposition would be in vain; and tho' he could not promise himself any great Success, resolv'd to try his utmost Skill for the obtaining. for his Prince the Happiness he requir'd. He therefore assur'd him, in the most submissive Terms, of his Attachment to his Interest, and that he would omit nothing which might be conducive to promote it. The Prince, who doubted not his Sincerity, urg'd no more, than that he would be as speedy as possible in the execution of this Commission; and telling him, that, till he was the Master of
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VIOLETTA's Beauties, he could not hope to know one easy moment, left him at liberty, to study on the means which might make him so.

The Reader will, perhaps, be surpriz'd, that, considering the Character of MARMILLIO, and the Services he had done of the same nature for his Prince, he should now with so much difficulty be prevail'd on to engage in this. The Ruin of a young Virgin, like VIOLETTA, and the Injury he should do a Family, by whom he had been treated with the utmost respect, would appear but faint Obstructions to a Man of his Humour, who, in every Action of his Life, had testify'd no Sense of Pity, Gratitude, or Honour; nor indeed would he in the least have hesitated, had nothing but what I have mention'd deterr'd him: But, besides that he knew she was possess'd of all that Modesty and Strictness of Virtue he had represented to the Prince, he knew, that happening to be in the Anti-chamber of the Princess's Apartment, she had overheard some Conference between THEODORE and ISMONDA, which had let her into the secret of their Amour. She had frequently spoke of it to him with Wonder and Detestation; and he no oftener had endeavour'd to excuse, than she to reproach such a consequence of Love. The Sense she had of the Crime, was sufficient to make him

him know it would not be easy to prevail on her to become guilty of it: but to work a change in her Sentiments, in favour of a Person, whom she was certain was not only married, but also engaged in an Amour with another, seem'd to him an utter Impossibility; nor could all his Wit furnish him with one Pretence, which he could think would be received.

To save his Credit therefore with the Prince, he had recourse to the most cruel Stratagem that ever enter'd the Heart of Man. Despairing to corrupt her Principles, or inspire her with any Tenderness for a Man, of whose Heart she could not hope to possess above a third share; after having told THEODORE that all the Arguments he could use had been of no effect, he persuaded him to force the Joy, which he found it was impossible for him to obtain by any other means.

Rash, amorous, and ungovernable as this Prince was in all his Passions, such a Proposition extremely shock'd him: he had an inimitable share of Good-nature, and as much Honour as was consistent with the Inconstancy of his Temper; and told MARMILLIO, that he could not consent to such an Action, though the perpetrating it was all for which he wish'd to live, and charg'd him to renew his Endeavours to make her his by other means than those. The other

promis'd him to obey, not daring to let him know the reason why he believed they would be eternally in vain.

In fine, without uttering one syllable of the Prince's Passion to her, he continued every day to assure him, that he found her Heart impregnable as a Rock, that he had try'd her every way, and that there was now no remaining hope, but in the course he had before advis'd. What will not the subtile Insinuations of the Person one loves, when concurring with one's own Inclination, in time prevail on one to be guilty of!

The Prince, impatient to possess, and made to believe that nothing but Force could afford the long'd-for Bliss, at last half yielded to the Persuasions of his Favourite; who, to remove the only now remaining Scruple, that of the thing being known, contriv'd this Stratagem, that he should not appear in his own shape, and the destin'd Victim of his wild Desires be ignorant to whom she ow'd her Ruin. Honour now lull'd to sleep, and all the nobler Faculties drown'd in the Excess of an o'erflowing and tumultuous Passion, he consented with pleasure to the Proposal, and left the management of it to him, who promised to accomplish it in a very short time.

Nothing could be more easy, than for him, who was so intimate with her, to betray her in this manner : And the Method he took to do it was this; he caused an *Egyptian* Habit to be made for the Prince, and a tawny Mask, so artificially contriv'd, that whoever had it on, would appear to have no other Face, than that which Nature had bestow'd : And intreating the Prince to come into his Apartment, You must condescend, my Lord, *said he*, like JUPITER, to assume a Shame unworthy of you, when you attempt an Enterprize of this kind. The things being try'd, and fitting exactly, never Man was more delighted than THEODORE; but yet could not conceive of what service this Disguise was to him, or how design'd to be made use of, till MARMILLIO pluck'd out two Letters, the one directed for himself, the other to VIOLETTA: These, *said he*, are written by a hand so exactly counterfeiting that of CARICLEA, that were herself to see them, she would imagine them dictated in her Sleep.—— They contain a Recommendation of an *Egyptian* Eunuch, whom this careful Sister entreats the young VIOLETTA to entertain as the Guardian of her Virtue : So many Stratagems being daily contriv'd at Court to destroy the Innocence of a Virgin, she cannot think her safe without this watchful ARGUS, who, incapable of in-

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juring her himself, will be her Security from all others. He is therefore to lie in her Chamber, lest any Attempts should be made on her sleeping Virtue. Your Highness, *continued he*, has nothing to do to carry on this Plot, but to personate this Slave for an hour or two, for it shall be near night when I present you: and to excuse your absence, you must pretend a little Indisposition, and dismiss all but me from your Attendance. The transported THEODORE agreed it should be done that very Evening; and having appear'd in the Drawing-room long enough to give a colour to the thing, cry'd out on a sudden, that his Head ach'd, and retir'd hastily to his own Apartment; where being follow'd by all the Gentlemen of his Bed-Chamber, he order'd a profound Silence to be kept, and that none but MARMILLIO should stay in the Room.

Every body being remov'd, he began to equip himself in the *Egyptian* Habiliments, which the assiduous Favourite had before convey'd by a back way into the Chamber; by which also, as soon as dress'd, they went, and so to the Apartment, who, being not then in waiting, they found at home. MARMILLIO presented her with the Letters of the Slave; which she had no sooner read, than she blush'd prodigiously, at the thoughts of permitting any thing that bore the

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the shape of Man to lie in her Chamber; but MARMILLIO assuring her, that it was the Custom in all those Countries where the Men are jealous of the Honour of their Families, she at last consented to obey the Injunction of her Sister. But here immediately rose another Obstacle, which was, that according to the Custom of *Caramania*, she having but one Bed in her Chamber, he must lie in another till one could be put up: But this was not an Obstacle which was beyond the Wit of MARMILLIO to surmount; he presently told her, that these Slaves never lay but on Carpets, which could be spread in a moment, and as easily remov'd.

The good Opinion she had of him, the observant Care with which he had ever treated her, and her Sister's Commands, left her no room to hesitate, whether what they injoin'd was for her good, or not; and she order'd her Woman to see it perform'd. The Royal Slave, who pretended not to understand one word of the *Caramanian* Language, was entertain'd by the Servants, in as civil a manner as possible: but it was no small diversion to him, to behold the wonder with which all the Women look'd upon him, and the Mirth which his suppos'd Condition occasion'd among them, every one speaking according to the Sentiments of her Heart, without reserve before him,

in confidence he knew not what they said.

But when Night came, and he saw the lovely VIOLETTA in her Bed, how difficult was it for him to restrain the Impatiencies of his burning Passion, till she was asleep, not daring to stir from his Carpets till then, lest she should alarm the Family: but a more than ordinary Drouziness, by her ill Angel cast on her Senses, made her presently fall into the Condition he wish'd; which he no sooner perceiv'd, than he quitted the uneasy Position in which he had lain, the Eagerness of Desire with which he seiz'd upon her Beauties leaving no time for the Preparatives of Kisses, and Degrees of Caresses, he in a moment became Master of too much, not to put it past her power to keep from him any part of what he wish'd. But in what words is it possible to set forth the Rage! the Horror! the Surprize with which she waked, and found this bold Intruder! She struggled, would have shriek'd for help, but Kisses stopp'd the one, and more prevailing Strength rendred the other of no effect.—— In fine, she was undone, and he as happy as the full Possession of her Charms could make him; but Tears, and Vows, not to out-live the loss of Honour, allay'd the Joy, and turn'd him all into Endeavours to mitigate the Tempest of her Soul.——He spoke

spoke to her, excusing what he had done by the Violence of a Passion, which disdain'd all Bounds, and would fly to any Artifice to shun Despair.

Oh! by whom, *cry'd she*, have I been thus abus'd?—yet, if thou lovest thy Life, *continued she*, I charge thee do not tell me, for be assur'd, I will revenge this Wrong. It was not to show that he not fear'd this Threat, but believing the knowledge of his Quality would ease the present Horrors of her Soul, he discover'd to her who he was; at which indeed her Surprize increas'd, but a small Portion of her Grievs abated—the Rank of her Undoer took not away the Shame of being undone, and tho' she ceas'd to *revile*, she did not to *complain*—Oh Cruel Prince! *said she*, what could provoke you to the Ruin of a harmless Maid, who never injur'd you even in a Thought? Your Heart and Vows elsewhere devoted, how small your Satisfaction, and how immense my Woe!—Wretch that I am, *pursu'd she, after a little pause*, Death only can put a period to my irreparable Shame. In this manner did she go on, nor could less be expected from a Woman of her strict Modesty; yet had the Prince the pleasure to observe, that either the Respect she paid him as her Sovereign, or a secret Inclination to his Person, made her suffer his continued Endearments with less reluctance

than before. As he was indeed one of the most lovely and accomplish'd Men on earth, it was not difficult for him to make the most favourable Impression on a Heart so entirely unprepossess'd as was her's: to add to this, he address'd her in the softest, most engaging terms that Love and Wit could dictate; and before Morning, if she was not brought to think what he had done no Crime, she was at least to wish it were not so; and though she did not in words declare so much, the tender Pressures, the Languishments, which, unawares even to herself, her Arms, and Eyes bestow'd on him, confess'd the melting God had pleaded in her Heart so powerfully in the defence of his Votary, that she now more than forgave the Effects of his embolden'd Passion.—Transported with this Discovery, he pursued his Conquest, and swore to hold her for ever Prisoner in his Arms, if she would not seal his Pardon, and consent henceforth to give a loose to Rapture. Faintly she struggled to get free from the sweet Confinement, but could not speak: A thousand, and a thousand times he repeated the same Request, before her Tongue could utter what her swimming Eyes sufficiently made known; and when, to prevail on him to rise, it being now broad day, all she could bring forth was, *Yes*. Enough confirm'd that he was Master of her Soul, as well as Body, he

he now forsook the happy Scene of Pleasure; and having clothed himself in his Disguise, retired to his Carpets: from which, as soon as her Woman came into the Chamber, he rose, and went into another Room; whence, taking his opportunity, he pass'd to his own Apartment, where MARMILLIO waited with impatience to know the End of this Adventure.

The Prince making him a full relation of all that had pass'd, he was not a little alarm'd, when he first heard he had discover'd who he was, not knowing how far the Fury of a Woman, thus abus'd, might transport her: but when he was told how kindly she forgave the Deceit, he as much applauded himself for the Contrivance. The Prince express'd his Sense of it in terms the most obliging to him, and passionate to VIOLETTA; which let this Favourite know, that his Desires being yet unsatiated, he would still have need of his Assistance to procure their future Interviews.

He managed this Affair, as he had done all others of this nature, with which he had been entrusted, so much to the satisfaction of the Prince, that he became more in his favour than ever. — The Intimacy between him and VIOLETTA, was known by every body, and she met the Prince at his Apartment, under the pretence of visiting a Person, who was look'd upon as her

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Guardian, without the least suspicion, for a considerable time. But what can escape the Eyes of jealous Love? ISMONDA finding the Prince more than ordinarily cool in the Devoirs he was accustomed to pay her, bent her whole study on a discovery of the Cause; which she at last discover'd, and that MARMILLIO also was the Person to whom she owed her Misfortune: having an opportunity of speaking to him soon after she arrived at this knowledge, she upbraided him in the severest terms; wept, threatned, rail'd, entreated, by turns did every thing that an amorous and impatient Woman would do on the like occasion. Finding her too well inform'd of the Secret, he would not heighten her Rage of Temper by any Endeavours to conceal the Truth, but again made use of the same Arguments he had before urged on the score of EURIDICE, and advised her indeed to the wisest Method she could now pursue: Her Reputation lost, her Interest with the Princess changed to its reverse, rendred an Alien to her Family, and for ever abandoned by her Husband, her whole dependance consisted in the favour of THEODORE; which, if she once forfeited, by an imprudent Attempt to controll him in what he esteem'd a Pleasure, she must expect the worst and most unpity'd Fate to which a Woman can possibly be reduced, that of a forsaken Mistress: Whereas

Whereas if she seem'd not to know, what by resenting she could not remedy, she would not fail of retaining his Respect, and perhaps too retrieve his Love. To arm her to go through this Task with less difficulty, he ventur'd to let her know this had not been the first false step the Prince had made; and by reminding her, that in spite of all the new Attractions which had hitherto fallen in his way, she had still preserv'd her Empire o'er his Soul, flatter'd her with the opinion she should always do so; and by degrees moderated the first Emotions of her jealous Rage so well, that she consented to seem blind to what she but too well saw: But alas! she had now reduced herself to a Condition, which made it the only Expedient to preserve her from Misery, Contempt, and all those Ills a Woman in her Circumstances must be obliged to bear, when abandon'd by him for whom she incur'd them.

As for VIOLETTA, her Character as yet remain'd untouch'd; the *Egyptian* Slave, who lay in her Chamber, and was never heard of after, was by MARMILLIO's Artifices suppos'd to have taken that opportunity of robbing her of some Jewels which she had worn that Day; and confiding in his Honesty, had not order'd to be secur'd: and by the Diligence of the same Person, the enamour'd Prince has frequent Opportunities
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of revelling with her to the height of that Desire, which she now feels in equal proportion with himself. How long a Space of Time their present Ardours will continue, or what must become of unhappy ISMONDA, hereafter must reveal: but 'tis highly probable, that in a Passion liable to such Vicissitudes, as have been observ'd in the course of these Memoirs, there will happen Occurrences worthy of Observation; which shall then, as they fall out, be communicated to the Publick.

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